

History of the Member Churches of the Caldwell Baptist Association, Incorporated



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Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc.

CHURCH HISTORIES

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THE HISTORY OF BATON BAPTIST CHURCH

Baton Baptist Church began as a mission November, 1949. A rock store building on the Connelly Springs Road was used for a temporary meeting place. The name of the mission was to be Baton Baptist.

The first Sunday Service was held November 20, 1949, and Rev. M.A. Huffman was called as interim pastor. He served until September 17, 1950, when Rev. Niles E. Compton was called as pastor of the Baton Baptist Mission.

On October 16, 1950, the Baton Baptist Mission met for the purpose of organizing the mission into Baton Baptist Church. The vote was unanimous to constitute the Baton Baptist Mission into the Baton Baptist Church.

The first business meeting of the newly organized Baton Baptist Church was held October 29, 1950. Rev. Niles E. Compton, who had been serving as mission pastor, was called to serve as full-time pastor of the church.

The church came under the watch-care of the Caldwell Association and was admitted into the association in 1952.

A wooded lot was bought where the educational and fellowship building is now located. The lot was cleared and a cinder block educational building was under construction. Before the building was completed, but adequate for services, the congregation moved and began worshipping in the new construction during the autumn of 1953.

The church soon purchased a brick home for the pastor, located near the church on the Hickory Nut Ridge Road.

Rev. Compton resigned in March 1956. Assisted by Rev. Compton, the church extended a call to Rev. Ambrose Singley on April 22, 1956.

As the time passed, the educational building was completed and Rev. Singley led in a note-burning service and the celebration of a debt free church.

On November 26, 1961, Rev. Singley resigned and Rev. Luther Snipes was called as the interim. Rev.

Ray C. Yarborough was called as the third pastor on April 15, 1962. He resigned November 24, 1963. The Rev. W.R. Moss served as interim pastor.

During the Summer of 1964, the church voted to brick the building and make other improvements.

On October 18, 1964, Rev. Howard Barnes was called. He began his pastorate on November 15, 1964.

During November 1971, 3 1/4 acres of land and a home adjoining the church grounds was purchased by the church.

In April 1972, renovations were made to the house, which became the parsonage, and the first parsonage was sold.

Work began on the newly acquired land and plans for a new church was adopted January, 1975. Ground was broken for the construction of the new building in May, 1975, and the first service in the sanctuary was held on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1976.

With much prayer and consideration, Baton Baptist Church called Mrs. Lewis (Martha) Annas on January 13, 1978, to be the church's first paid minister of music. She is still serving the church faithfully and well in the music program.

Rev. Howard Barnes served as pastor of Baton Baptist Church for twenty years, retiring December 31, 1984. On January 1, 1985, he was called to serve as interim pastor. This tenure lasted from January 1, 1985 until May 26, 1985.

Rev. William Earl Hamric was called as pastor on April 28, 1985. He began his pastorate May 27, 1985. In the summer of 1987 a shelter for the church van, which would also serve as a picnic shelter was built. Other improvements were made at this time to improve the outreach tape ministry of the church. Rev. Hamric resigned December 27, 1987.

Rev. Howard Barnes again ably served the church as interim pastor from January 3, 1988 until June

11, 1988, when Rev. Allen Voss, Jr. was called as pastor. His service as pastor began June 29, 1988. Rev. Voss led in a note burning ceremony, October 23, 1988, to celebrate the church's debt free status. He resigned July 30, 1989. Rev. J.B. Crouse served as supply pastor during the month of August, 1989.

On September 3, 1989, Rev. Albert A. Young was called as interim pastor. Rev. Robert Mellichamp was called as pastor, March 4, 1990. Rev. Mellichamp resigned as pastor, February 17, 1991.

Rev. Tom Small was called to serve as interim pastor. On July 14, 1991, the church extended a call to Rev. Roger A. Parker. Rev. Parker brought his first message as pastor, August 25, 1991 and is still serving faithfully as pastor of Baton Baptist Church.

The contributions of all who have had a part in the Lord's work at Baton Baptist Church are deeply appreciated. We praise God for the history of Baton Baptist Church. To God be any glory we have realized!

THE HISTORY OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Located on the Richland Road in the mountains of northern Caldwell County, Bethany Baptist Church began sometime in the 1890's, and as a result of strong faith, much prayer, and dedication to our Lord, we are still active and worshipping there today.

Through God's blessings, we have enjoyed 23 pastors. Three members of our congregation have been set aside and ordained to the ministry: The Rev. W. B. Bryant (April 1915), The Rev. Arthur Church (October 1932), and The Rev. Harley Coffey (April 1939). The Rev. W. B. Bryant was Bethany's pastor from May 1919 until November 1919.

Our records date back to March 1898, at which time Rev. W. F. Knight was elected pastor. Mr. W. H. McCall was clerk and Mr. L. H. Green and Mr. G. H. McCall were elected deacons. There were approximately one hundred members. An adjoining tract of land was given by Mr. Ped McCall for the building of a new church, which was completed in 1902 and remains at the present location.

Mr. Ran Story, Mr. Amos Story, and Mr. Joe Bradshaw were among the dedicated laborers who helped fulfill the member's hopes for the new building. In the earlier days, heat was furnished with wood and later with coal. Mr. Conley Cook became a member of our church in 1938, and his task for about 12 years was to fire the "pot-beddied" stove, when through modernization the stove was replaced by a furnace. The one thing he was noted for was his love for children. Mr. Jack Cooke was one of our oldest members and quite faithful until declining health made it impossible for him to continue coming. Mrs. Callie Story lived the longest of all our members. In 1981, she died at the age of 101.

In the early 1960's we underwent some major remodeling. Sunday School rooms were added, a new furnace installed, and parking areas were paved. The water systems and bathrooms were updated also.

The following men have served Bethany as pastor: W. F. Knight (March 1898 - 1900); Isaac Miller (April 1900 - October 1910); Isaac Miller (January 1912 - April 1912); D. M. Wheeler (May 1912 - April 1919); W. B. Bryant (May 1919 - November 1919); R. H. Shore (June 1920 - June 1925); W. D. Ashley (June 1925 - June 1927); Edward Hodges (June 1927 - June 1930); R. H. Shore (June 1930 - May 1932); J. W. Fox (May 1932 - June 1935); Leonard Beane (June 1935 - June 1942); Henry Smith (August 1942 - June 1944); Clell Cook (June 1944 - February 1945); Leonard Beane (February 1945 - May 1951); Albert Tester (June 1951 - June 1954); R. H. Shore (June 1954 - 1955); Howard Shore (1955 - 1956); David Greene (June 1956 - June 1957); Howard Shore (1957 - 1962); Arnt Greer (1962 - 1964); E. S. Peterson (July 1964 - August 1967); Melvin Maltba (August 1967 - December 1971); Gurney Robbins (January 1980 - June 1984); John McCarty (June 1984 - February 1986); and Leland Green, (November 1986 to present).

**THE HISTORY
OF
BLAIR'S FORK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Blair's Fork Baptist Church ,with which the 58th session of the Caldwell Baptist Association met, was organized April 19th, 1891, with 15 members, 13 of whom came from Lower Creek Church and 2 from the Lenoir First Baptist Church.

The Constituting Presbytery consisted of Elders Isaac Oxford, Isaac Smith, and H. C. Marley. Oxford acted as moderator and Marley as clerk. H.C. Marley afterwards was called as pastor of this newly constituted Church. In the year 1899, the Caldwell Association met with this Church, which then numbered 39 members; and again in 1916 the Association met here. The Church then reported 113 members. *By the 1942 session, the membership has grown to 184 and the Church building has been enlarged and equipped for doing the Master's work.

Source: 1942 Annual Minutes

**THE HISTORY
OF
BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH**

A concerned group of Christians met Tuesday, July 30, 1991, at 7:30 p.m., in the home of Barry and Susan Simmons to discuss forming and organizing a new church in Caldwell County. Attending the meeting were: Charles and Becky Beck, Ronnie and Nadine Jewell, Teddi Jane Blake, Harold and Carolyn Joplin, Inga Powell, Jason Powell, Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Lynch, Barry and Susan Simmons.

It was agreed by the group and Rev. Kenneth Lynch that he would become pastor of this church.

On Wednesday, August 14, 1991, Blue Ridge Baptist Church met for the first worship service at their new facility on the Pine Mountain Road in Hudson.

A total of 60 joined Blue Ridge Baptist on Sunday evening of August 18, 1991. At this time, Rev. Kenneth Lynch was the pastor.

On November 17, 1991, Blue Ridge Baptist Church held "Charter Members Day." On that day 77 people signed as "Charter Members."

On Sunday night, April 26, 1992, Rev. Kenneth Lynch resigned as pastor of Blue Ridge Baptist Church to be effective after services on Sunday morning, May 3, 1992. At this time the church membership was 110.

The church was without a pastor for three months. On August 9, 1992, Rev. Richard Gaddis was called as pastor. The church continued to grow as Rev. Gaddis served as pastor until September 19, 1993.

As of this date Blue Ridge Baptist is still meeting in the facility on the Pine Mountain Road in Hudson, with a Building Fund Program, and the hope of purchasing some land in the Hudson area to build a new church in the near future.

On May 1, 1994, the church called Rev. Dale Leonhardt as pastor. Since Rev. Leonhardt has been pastor, the church has had 27 new additions. We also have lost some members, but with the Lord as our leader, Blue Ridge Baptist will go forward and do more within this area for the Glory of God.

Submitted by: Sherry Davis
Church Clerk

THE HISTORY OF BUFFALO COVE BAPTIST CHURCH

On May 8, 1851 the following members met in convention at the Buffalo Cove to consider the propriety of constituting a church of the Baptist faith and order: William Cottrell, Sr.; William Cottrell, Jr.; Edward Day; Larkin Pipes; James Cottrell; David Campbell; Lucy Cottrell; Susanna Cottrell; Sarah Day; Elizabeth Campbell; Elizabeth Cottrell; Sarah Pipes; Rachel Pipes; Rebecca Pipes; and Julia Pipes.

The church, after being constituted, proceeded to call Elder Burton Bradley to the pastoral care of the church for one year.

Tradition states that there was a place of worship in the community prior to the actual organization of the church. It is conceivable that this tradition has a basis in reality as many churches often had "arms" or satellite gatherings in remote communities where worship was conducted and where members could be received. Since the charter members of Buffalo Cove came from Elk Creek and Yadkin churches, the gathering in Buffalo Cove could have been a satellite of either. Tradition says that Yadkin is the mother of the Buffalo Cove Church.

Buffalo Cove Baptist Church is located seventeen miles north of Lenoir, near the Wilkes and Watauga County lines.

Buffalo Cove Church attached herself to the Lewis Fork Association in August of 1851. William Cottrell, Jr., William Cottrell, Jr., and Edward Day were the delegates. In July of 1860 there is a reference to the Lower Creek Association and in July of 1867, they joined the Three Forks Association. In August of 1882, membership was transferred to the Stony Fork Association where they remained until October 1, 1905, when they joined the Caldwell Association where they are currently members.

Through the years the church has participated in associational activities. Delegates were elected to attend the sessions yearly and the church would designate money, usually fifty cents or one dollar, for associational expense. Usually the delegates would give a report at the business meeting following the associational meeting. The church

still appoints messengers who now attend the associational meetings on a quarterly basis. The clerk also prepares the yearly church letter which becomes a part of the recorded history of the church.

The church supports the mission programs and the missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention and of the Caldwell Baptist Association by giving through the regular budget and the special offerings. These offerings include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Homes and Hospital Offering, State Missions, and other special promotions. The church gives a percentage of its tithes and offerings to the Caldwell Baptist Association and to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The first record of a Sunday School is dated Saturday, March 23, 1895, which indicates that a meeting to organize a Sunday School would be held the next day. R. H. Pipes was elected superintendent; and T.M. Hawkins, Assistant.

Music is briefly mentioned on December 2, 1871, when the church met for business "after singing and prayer." The church minutes of the early years do not indicate who led the singing or if the church had a choir. Known music leaders through the years are John L. Hawkins, John Robbins, Roby Hawkins, Granville Robbins, Mavel Hawkins, Lena Pipes Bumgarner, John O. Hawkins, Cathy Hawkins Barlow, Leta Watson, Mary Hodges Coffey, Phyllis Watson Goble, and Darlene Pipes Townsend.

In the 1940's a Baptist Young People's Union was organized with Mrs. Martha Philyaw as the director. The group lasted for a short while and a Baptist Training Union was re-organized in 1959 and lasted for about three years. In 1965 the group organized again and met for several years before being discontinued in 1978 when Sunday evening services ceased after a period of approximately twenty years.

A Woman's Missionary Union was organized in the 1940's which lasted for a short while. On September 9, 1987, Acteens, R.A.'s, G.A.'s, and

Mission Friends were organized.

The first pastor of the church was Rev. Burton Bradley who was elected at the first organizational meeting of the church. Pastors were elected for one year and for many years the church held business meetings on Saturday and worship on Sunday.

In 1953 the church changed the Saturday night meeting to Sunday night and in 1965 the church voted to have services every Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

There have been three buildings used for worship. The first house of worship was probably made of logs.

On November 19, 1893, a building committee of three was appointed for the purpose of building "a new church house the dimensions 40 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 14 feet high with one aisle to be located at the lower end of Sister Hawkins' field." On Sunday, January 26, 1947, a committee to see about building Sunday School rooms was appointed. It was deemed unwise by the committee and plans to construct a new building began to be made. The present building was occupied in 1952 with the dedication being held in 1953. A vestibule and rest rooms were added in October 1972. In the late 1970's the ceiling was lowered and the interior paneled. Air conditioning was installed in the early eighties. From 1988-1991 the church has installed new pews, a sound system, choir chairs, and new carpet, added a large front entrance porch, new steps and a ramp for the handicapped, a back porch which has since been enclosed for additional space, and redesigned and graveled the parking area.

**THE HISTORY
OF
CAJAH'S MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Cajah's Mountain Baptist Church was organized in 1956 with Rev. Tommy Swinson as pastor. The following men have served as pastors:

Rev. Will Cloer, 1959-1960; Rev. C. R. McFelea, 1961-1962; Rev. Will Bolick, 1963-1972; Rev. Bill Keller, 1973-1975; Rev. Johnny Niday, 1977-1982; Rev. Vestal Bennett, 1982-1983; Rev. Dave Pyatt, 1983-1984; Rev. Douglas Blevins, 1984-1988; Rev. Harry L. Turbyfill, 1988-1990; Rev. Bob Barlowe, Current Pastor (Began May 1991).

THE HISTORY OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Calvary Baptist Church was organized under the name of Willowdale Baptist Church on April 21, 1945 with Rev. Harvey Phillips as pastor. The first deacons to serve the church were: George Kincaid, James C. Woods, Roscoe Morrow, J. K. Walker, Hugh Kincaid and B. H. Watson.

On September 22, 1946 the name of the church was changed to Calvary Baptist Church. Since the name change, the following have served as pastors: Rev. J. Edd Crump, Rev. Buren P. Hastings, and present pastor, Rev. Bill Dyson.

The auditorium was bricked in 1958, and a homecoming and note burning was held on the 5th Sunday in August, 1959. Remodeling of the auditorium and the building of the present three story education building was undertaken in 1960.

The church purchased a pastorium at 327 Sharon Ave., NW, in 1970. The present auditorium was started in August 1980 and the first service was held on February 8, 1981. The church membership stands at 245, with a Sunday School enrollment of 216. The church is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention and supports many of its mission programs.

Along with the support of the Southern Baptist Convention, Calvary Baptist Church supports its own foreign missionary. On June 3, 1970, Calvary voted to send Christine Hastings to the foreign mission field. She met and married Rev. George Braidwood and they were led to Haiti, where they founded the Haitian Christian Center for the Deaf.

Calvary Baptist has ordained the following men to preach the gospel: Rev. Hugh Kincaid, Rev. Bernard Tuttle, Rev. Pete Edmisten, Rev. Calvin Helton, Rev. Dewey Sumpter, Rev. Roscoe Morrow, Rev. Phillip Martin, Rev. James Crump, Rev. Darrell McGuire, Rev. Aldene Wheeler, Rev. William Crowder, Rev. Vance Triplett, Rev. Terrell Crump, Rev. Jimmy Robbins, and Rev. Eric B. James.

THE HISTORY OF CEDAR ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cedar Rock Baptist Church was organized on November 14, 1942, with nine charter members: Calvin Helton, Allie Helton, Carrie Hollar, Finley Hollar, Ida Hollar, Ervin Hollar, Mamie Hollar, Beatrice Barlow, and Elisha Barlow.

There was no church in our community and the people decided they needed a place to worship. Finley Hollar volunteered a large room in his home, which was used almost a year before Cedar Rock Baptist was formed. The church called Rev. William Bolick to become the first pastor.

The church agreed to have worship services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday in each month, and the church covenant was adopted.

Dedication services were held on April 4, 1943. The church voted to add a belfry to the building on August 18, 1942, which was completed in August 1944.

Cedar Rock Baptist Church was received into the Caldwell Baptist Association on September 23, 1943.

The church agreed on June 7, 1944 to purchase one acre of land adjoining the church property, at the price of \$35.00 from Elisha Barlow.

In 1945 the church, with the help of Associational Missionary, Elizabeth Campbell, formed a Training Union. The first deacons, appointed in September 1945, were Oliver Stamey, Earl Pendergrass, and Ervin Hollar.

The first Vacation Bible School was held in July 1948. Sunday School rooms were added in August 1950.

On May 3, 1964, the church approved a motion to build a one-story educational building. On November 3, 1965 plans were made to add a second story and in May 1968 the second story additions were completed. In May 1987 plans were made to make major renovations to the first floor, and improving the outside appearance, adding the gable roof, front porch, paving the parking lot and putting the first steeple on the church.

God has enabled Cedar Rock Baptist Church from the very beginning to touch many lives for the Lord. In 1992 we have had 21 new members with 15 baptized. Our church is still truly blessed with His presence and through Him, Cedar Rock Baptist Church can continue to grow and work toward bringing others to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. Jim Robbins is the current pastor.

THE HISTORY OF CENTER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Center Grove Baptist Church met on Saturday before the first Sunday in September 1912 to organize a Baptist Church. The following presbytery was present: Mr. J. M. Harris, J. R. Annas, D. L. Miller, L. M. Annas and P. H. Icenhour, with Mr. J. L. Crump, J. R. Barber and L. G. Kirby, deacons of Sardis Baptist.

The church received by letter Mr. W. O. Bumgarner and wife Joanna, Sarah Bumgarner, Laura Mitcham, Hailey Harris, A. P. Harris and wife Catherine, Julia and Dovie Mitcham, J. R. Smith and wife Margaret. The church was then turned over to these capable members. These members adopted the Hissax Standard Manual and then received the following who had been baptized into the fellowship: Mr. A. J. Bumgarner and wife Martha, L. L. Bumgarner, Anna Barer, Joe Bumgarner and Maudie Goble.

Rev. J. M. Harris was unanimously called as pastor and four deacons were ordained. These were Joe Bumgarner, A. P. Harris, W. O. Bumgarner and A. J. Bumgarner.

Center Grove Baptist Church was organized in the school house, near the present church in the year 1912. The school was used until 1918 when the frame structure was erected. It served until 1950 when the present structure was erected. The educational building was erected in 1959.

Center Grove Baptist Mission was organized in June 1959 in a dwelling house near the present church. On July 2, 1961, the Mission had its first service in the new building (now Mount Carmel Baptist Church). The new building consisted of an assembly and nine classrooms.

The Center Grove parsonage was built in 1957. A new parsonage was built in 1977. In 1988 the church built a beautiful new fellowship hall that is located behind the sanctuary building.

Deacons who have served the church through the years are as follows: Joe Bumgarner, A. P. Harris, W. O. Bumgarner, A. J. Bumgarner, Mack Fox, D. W. Fox, Avery Bumgarner, Kenneth McRary, Jim Laney, S. G. Phillips, Fred Mitcham, Robinette Parson, Perry (Pete) Lail, W. R. Bumgarner,

Hartwell Raby, W. R. Edwards, Carl Bowman, Lloyd Holman, Burl Smith, Raymond Edwards, Lloyd Bumgarner, Melvin Lail, Alvin Triplette, Joe Pritchard, Wayne Bumgardner, Everett Austin, Rodney Allison, Charles Holden, Bill Williams, Richard Keener, Carroll Hall, Greg Lail, Gerald Nester, June Ryder, J. B. Bowman, Earl Wilcox, Tommy McRay and Roger Cox.

The church clerks have been: A. J. Bumgarner, W. F. Hatley, H. O. Bumgarner, J. E. Haas, A. P. Bumgarner, P. L. McRary, W. R. Edwards, Perry (Pete) Lail, Helen Bolick Keener, Loretta Bumgarner and Bertha Lail.

The WMU was organized in February 1938. Presidents and directors of the WMU have been Mrs. C. W. Colvard, Mrs. C. R. Teague, Blanche Fox, Connie McRary, Rachel Bolick, Verda McRary, Mabel Morrow, Lonabelle Cline, Bonnie Austin, Kay Lethcoe and Bertha Lail.

The Brotherhood (now Baptist Men) was organized in 1952. Presidents of Baptist Men have been: Tom Calloway, Lloyd Holman, Pete Lail, Dal Hice, G. W. Houser, Melvin Lail, Thad Bumgarner, Wayne Bumgardner, Gerald Nester, Richard Keener, Barry Curtis, Roger Cox and Mark Bumgarner.

The church has had an active Sunday School and church training programs under the leadership of very capable directors; also good Vacation Bible Schools.

The present membership of the church is 415.

Rev. J. M. Harris was organizer and first pastor of the Center Grove Baptist Church. Other faithful pastors have been the Reverends S. B. McCall, A. J. Setzer, J. R. Hagerman, W. B. Bryant, L. G. Curtis, Orville Icard, C. W. Colvard, E. R. Teague, C. R. McFelia, Ray Davis, Paul Morrow, Riley Huckaby, Dwight Watts, Sr., Charles Lethcoe, John Madison, and Mickey Moree. The present pastor is Reverend Dan Redding.

THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

On January 15, 1938, a group of people assembled together for the purpose of organizing a new church. These people had emerged from Whitnel Baptist Church. The church is now known as the Central Baptist Church of Whitnel. This group had been meeting in the home of Rev. J. H. Crisp and after confirming themselves to be in full fellowship with their former church, they moved to establish Central Baptist Church. Three deacons, J. E. Taylor, W. C. Lutz, and W. H. Livingston and the Rev. J. H. Crisp composed the presbytery which organized the church with 16 charter members. On the night of organization 48 others joined, making a total of 64 members.

The first building constructed to house Central Baptist Church was a wooden structure built by the 64 members on a lot purchased on January 17, 1938. The building was 50 by 30 feet in size and was made of tongue and groove roofers, it was completed in six days and was known as the "Tabernacle". The first service was held on January 22, 1938, a bell was obtained from Grover Bush which had been donated to the new Colliers Church by George and Lillian Everhardt (this church had been dissolved). On January 1, 1948, a new sanctuary was occupied, following its completion a two-story educational building was built and was annexed to the new sanctuary. In 1959, a new educational building was built and was joined by a breezeway to the other structure. By 1969 a new sanctuary was again needed. Instead of constructing a new building, the present structure was remodeled and enlarged. The adjoining property owned by Barringer Oil Company was purchased in 1984. Their office building was remodeled and now houses the Church Administrative Offices. A Family Life Center was built on part of the property and the first service in it was Homecoming in 1985.

The first elected deacons were: J. M. Smith, R. S. Taylor and H. S. Craig. The Rev. J. H. Crisp was asked to serve as supply pastor of the newly organized church, later in 1942 he was called as regular pastor. Joe Smith was the first Superintendent of the Sunday School. Carl Swanson was the first Music Director, and Rev. Carl Roberts was the first elected pastor.

Following Rev. Roberts as pastor was Rev. Dexter Crouch, Rev. J. H. Crisp, Rev. J. J. Buckner, Rev. C. H. Kincaid, Rev. Roy Collins, Jr., Rev. Todd Morris, and Rev. Paul Wall. Serving as interim pastors were Rev. Masten Bradshaw, Rev. Lloyd Black, Rev. Fred Price, Rev. Frank Colburn, and Rev. Kenneth Lynch.

The current pastor of Central Baptist Church is Rev. John Jernigan. Rev. Jernigan came to our church in 1992.

Central Baptist Church is fully organized with Sunday School, Church Training, WMU, and Brotherhood.

The church has been host to the Caldwell Baptist Association in 1948, 1956, 1971, 1976, 1988 and 1994. We look forward to being your host again in the future.

Central Baptist Church has grown from 64 members to more than 700, we are so thankful for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us and because of His many blessings in September 1988, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in God's service and we are prayerfully starting on the next 50 years.

Mrs. Ramona Thompson
Church Historian

THE HISTORY OF CLARK'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY

In the beginning.... In the Old Testament, Genesis 1:1, we read, "In the beginning God created..... Did God's creation end after six days? Did God look down and see the need of a community almost one hundred years ago?

The time was at the beginning of the twentieth century. The place was called Needmore, a rural community, with many scattered homes. Families were large, many with ten, perhaps twelve children. Often three generations lived together as one family. It was a good place to live. The people were farmers, hunters of wild animals, and fishermen. They made their medicine from roots and herbs. Any surplus not needed for food was sold or traded for other needs. They cut trees, sawed their own logs, and built their homes. Mr. Clingman Clark made bricks and built his own home. This house is still standing. Everyone worked hard and no one felt poor.

Neighbors had time to visit and were always ready to help in times of need, although the distance was sometimes miles and the roads were often muddy paths. Travel was on foot, horseback and farm wagons. It was a peaceful life. There was another occupation which had come to the community which was not good. It was the making and selling of whiskey. Men who brought the whiskey were using the money which was needed by their families. They were also disturbing the peace and bringing other evils into the community. More muddy roads and whiskey were not needed in Needmore.

Something was needed in Needmore, though, that was a church. A few people had been walking several miles to church when they could. Some saw a great need for a church in the community and after talking it over with other interested people reached the agreement that a church was needed. They began to make plans to organize a church. Cornelius Clark and his wife, Nancy Craig Clark, agreed to give land in front of their home. He also promised to help build a brush arbor in which services could be held until a building could be constructed.

The tract of land which they deeded to the church was a part of her dowry (property that a woman brought to her husband at marriage) which was not unusual at that time. All the land which the church now owns at the site where the church now stands was a part of that dowry.

THE HISTORY

In the late summer of 1900, a need was seen for a church in this community. While attending a revival held in a brush arbor near Cajah's Mountain, Cornelius Clark became interested in a revival meeting here. He asked the Rev. John Z. Griffin, Rev. William W. Conway and the Rev. D. Lafayette Miller if they would preach in a brush arbor if he would build one. They readily consented.

Edward Prestwood and Haywood Clark helped build the brush arbor. Adam Prestwood hauled slabs of wood for seats.

A glorious revival was held after which the visiting preachers and several members of the Mountain Grove Baptist Church met and decided to organize a church at the brush arbor. A Presbytery consisting of the afore mentioned preachers, the Reverends Griffin, Conway and Miler and Deacons A.P. Lutz, J. W. Smith, L.J. Smith, C.L. Smith and G.W. Smith met with those holding letters. After examination of the letters presented, the eleven members constituted into and declared to be a regular Missionary Baptist Church, according to the Church Covenant and the Articles of Faith found in the Church Members Manual. The eleven charter members were Cornelius Clark, Clingman Clark, Harry Clark, W.L. Gilbert, Nancy Clark, Mary Clark, Mary Ann Clark, Etta Clark, Margaret Courtney, Mary Craig and Miry Brown. Cornelius Clark and Clingman Clark were set apart as deacons by prayer and the imposition of hands. Clingman Clark was appointed Clerk. The date was Monday, September 3, 1900.

After the organization, the church was named Clark's Chapel and the Rev. D. Lafayette Miller was called as pastor for one year.

The church was received into the Caldwell Baptist Association in September, 1900. During that year, the membership increased to twenty members.

On cold and rainy days services were held in the homes of the members. The first building which had rough floors and seats, was occupied some time in 1903. The lot for the building was given by Cornelius and Nancy Clark and is part of the lot on which the church now stands. This one room building was used until 1934, when it was remodeled and six Sunday School rooms were built.

There was a Sunday School in the early years. The first superintendent, A.E. Helton, was elected on May 15, 1908.

In October, 1909, the church voted to include singing as part of church worship. A.E. Helton agreed to teach church music to a choir. In 1912 the church bought an organ.

In the summer of 1930, the first B.Y.P.U. was organized for the youth. Howard Clark was elected president. The Union soon expanded to include other members of the church and was the forerunner of our Church Training Program.

On September 18, 1949, the church voted to include the Cooperative Program in the church budget. In that same year our first W.M.S. was organized. Miss Toye Clark was elected president. Later, we were able to have a fully graded Woman's Missionary Union.

The church voted on May 6, 1947 to begin a new building. Appointed as a building committee were W.R. Stone, Chairman, D.M. Hoyle and Don Lambert. The finance committee was composed of H.C. Walker, Chairman, Jack Craig, Clyde Pope, Mrs. Hunter (Edith) Crump and Mrs. Vance (Ethel) Craig. On November 5, 1951, plans were made to begin building on a site beside the old church on land donated by Haywood and Josie Clark. The building was completed and the first service in it was held on August 10, 1952. The sum of \$10,000.00 had been borrowed to finish the building. On August 27, 1961, the money had been raised to pay off the debt. A note burning ceremony was held on September 3, 1961, exactly sixty-one (61) years after the organization of the church. The Rev. Luther E. Snipes served as pastor of the church during this building program.

Rev. Snipes was the first full-time pastor of the church by a vote of the church on June 14, 1958.

A lot for a parsonage was purchased from Gurney and Nancy Watson in 1960. The parsonage was completed in 1962.

A new educational building was begun in 1970. A bond committee headed by Bobby Craig and Sidney A. Maynard with the Rev. Arnold Bell as pastor led in the selling of \$80,000.00 in bonds to finance the unit. Erected on part of a two-acre tract of land purchased from Haywood and Josie Clark, the unit was completed and was dedicated on September 5, 1971. In February, 1980, the bonds were all paid off, and a note burning ceremony was held on July 13, 1980. The parking area was paved in August, 1972.

On July 28, 1974, the church adopted the deacon rotating system. An air conditioning unit was installed in the sanctuary in April, 1976.

On September 13, 1980, a memorial fund was begun for George R. Craig, the fund to be used to cushion the pews in the sanctuary. At the time this was done, the floor was fully carpeted and other improvements were made. A ramp leading to the side door was built.

During the year of 1986, the basement hall and Sunday School rooms were fully carpeted and redecorated as was the pastor's study. A van was purchased and a Senior Citizens Ministry was begun.

In 1987, other improvements were completed in the building and grounds, including an enlargement of the parking area, also landscaping and planting shrubbery.

As a memorial to Daniel D. Kirby II, in 1988, the educational building was fully air conditioned and blinds put in the windows.

In 1989, the parking lot was paved and the older part repaved. New classes in Sunday School were organized as well as new groups in Discipleship Training. We now have a fully-graded Sunday School, Discipleship Training and Woman's Missionary Union and have begun leadership training.

In 1990, new choir robes were purchased. On April 4, 1990, the church adopted a Constitution and By-Laws.

Three members from the Clark's Chapel Baptist Church have gone into full time Christian service. The Rev. J. Harold Craig is now serving at Temple Baptist Church, Durham, N.C. as Associate Pastor, Minister of Education and Music. Harold is the grandson of Mrs. Mary Craig, one of the charter members of the church. The Rev. Ted A. Williams was ordained by the Clark's Chapel Baptist Church on September 7, 1980, and is serving as pastor of Harrisburg Baptist Church, Lenoir, N. C. The Rev. Dale Coffey serves as pastor of Marantha Baptist Church, Newport News, Virginia.

Pastors who have served the church are D.L. Miller, W.N. Cook, J. P. Hagaman, M.L. Clark, J.G. Benfield, R.L. Prestwood, W.B. Bryant, W.N. Bryant, Grady Hamby, J. S. Silvers, J. W. Ramsey, L. E. Snipes, Arnold Bell, John Sigmon, McLendon H. Jamison, and our present pastor, Jack Sprinkle.

**THE HISTORY
OF
CLEARVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**

A group of the charter members started meeting in the spring of 1954. They held meetings on the front porch of Ray and Fannie Garnes. As the weather turned colder, the meetings were moved to the basement of Thel and Dorothy Garnes. As the number grew the basement grew too small and the group rented a house from Alfred Hartley for \$15.00 per month. Meetings were held there for a few months, then moved to William and Lois Quinn's basement to save the \$15.00 per month rent. They started taking an offering also. Land was donated for the church site by Earl and Josie Duncan. The money was borrowed from the Bank of Granite for building. The dedication of the new church was held in William and Lois Quinn's basement in May, 1955 with Rev. Shepard of Hudson First Baptist as speaker. As you stand on the church site, there is a beautiful view of the community, therefore, the name Clearview came about.

The church that sponsored Clearview to the Association was East Hudson. The first recorded minutes were June 1955. The first pastor was Edward Peterson.

Charter Members:

Earl & Josie Duncan, Roy & Minnie Duncan, Wade & Ancil Burchette, Dudley & Ila Watson, William & Lois Quinn, Lennie & Hannah Quinn, Rev. Perry & Ann Smith, Zeno Smith, James Garnes, Beaula Quinn, Fannie Mae Garnes, Daniel & Annie Brown, Thelmer Garnes, Helen Brown, Ernest Brown, Daniel Carter Haney, Zonnie Haney, Ham & Dora Okes, Bruce Robinson, Alma Hamby, and Vera Haas.

THE HISTORY OF CLOVER BAPTIST CHURCH

A small group of people who had held cottage prayer meetings throughout the community and who held Sunday school and worship services in the Faith Tabernacle, met on July 5, 1942, to organize a church from which would come the present body known as Clover Baptist Church. Nine ordained men composed the presbytery, which met in the first organizational meeting. The Church which was organized that day was to be known as Clover Missionary Baptist Church. Charter members composed ten members by letter and nine by baptism. Rev. Grady H. Hamby was selected by the congregation to serve as Minister with Fred Cline to be the first church secretary and treasurer. Charter members were: (by letter) Mrs. Will Bentley, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hamby, Rev. and Mrs. Grady Hamby, Miss Ida Bentley, Mrs. Irene Icenhour, T. H. Icenhour; (by Baptism) Margie Propst (Triplett), Wayburn Bentley (Propst), Mary E. Smith (Reid), Jessie Fae Smith (Goodman), Hilda Kirby (Benfield), Juanita Tolbert, Mrs. Clara Bumgarner, Mrs. Texie Gilliland, and Mrs. Aner Reed. The first deacons of the church, C. M. Hamby and Fred Cline, were ordained on July 26, 1942. To date, a total of 42 deacons have served the church with 3 year deacon rotation plan beginning in 1958 and a Deacon Ministry Plan initiated April 8, 1979.

Pastors who have served: Rev. Grady H. Hamby, Rev. T. A. Sheppard, Rev. Robert Marchbanks, Rev. Ben Lee Ray, Rev. Z. W. Rotan, Rev. Edgar L. Cole, Rev. D. C. Butts, Rev. W. H. "Bill" McNeill. Licensed into the ministry have been H. H. McManus, Michael Kirby, Thad Hamilton, William David Cole, Kimo Mullinax. Ordained into the ministry: William Rotan, May, 1967. The first baptismal service was held on October 11, 1942. In 1946, the church became a member of the Caldwell Baptist Association.

October 4, 1942, the church voted to purchase land for a building on what is known now as North Main Street - Parallel. A cinderblock building was erected and a year later the church trustees were appointed to be in charge of adding ten rooms to be used by the Sunday School. Later this building was veneered with brick.

The church voted to purchase the land on which the present building facilities now stand on December 7, 1952. Groundbreaking for the educational building was held on April 18, 1954. The building was completed in May, 1955. The business meeting of February, 1958, brought a recommendation from the deacons that they begin to seek a lot for the purpose of building a parsonage. A lot of approximately one acre of land was purchased from Mr. D. R. Moore. In July, 1968, under the leadership of Rev. Cole the church paid off all indebtedness on the parsonage and the educational building.

The building fund program for the new sanctuary was begun through the Z. W. Rotan Memorial Fund which was put into a savings account to be used for pulpit furnishings. March 8, 1970, the new sanctuary finance committee recommended that after plans for the construction of the building were approved that we enter into a bond selling program of approximately \$100,000. Dedication and open house was held on Sunday, October 31, 1971, for the new sanctuary which has a seating capacity of 400. Approximate cost for the completed sanctuary building including furnishings was \$155,000. Sunday, February 24, 1985, a "Celebration of Bond Retirement on Sanctuary" was held through a note burning with special speaker Dr. Roy Smith, General Secretary-Treasurer, BSC. The last note payment was made November, 1984.

In early 1981, overall improvements were made to the parsonage. Over the last several years, a Fellowship Shelter has been build, parking lot paved, and additional land purchased.

The church has been active in all of the WMU, Brotherhood, and youth activities since the early 1950's. The first Acteens (G.A.'s) coronation was held February 11, 1973, with the following girls being recognized: Cathy Miller, Debbie Burgin, Amy Calloway, Cheryl Bumgarner, Marsha Miller and Debbie Kirby. Our Missions learning turned into mission travels as the Lord led Clover's Acteens on their first mission trip which was to Florida in 1986. The Activators made history for Clover and Caldwell Association for being the first

Acteens Activators team from North Carolina. They also spread the Word in Virginia (1987), and Kentucky (1988). The Acteens also attended the National Acteens Convention, San Antonio, 1989. In July of this year (1990) our first church churchwide mission trip was in Alum Creek, West Virginia. Backyard Bible Clubs, distributing literature door to door, and conducted three nights of revivals. Partial construction of the First Baptist Church, Alum Creek, was also begun.

The church participates each summer in the Vacation Bible School Program and in Backyard Bible Clubs. Missions are supported through the Cooperative Program, Caldwell Association, South Caldwell Christian Ministry, American Bible Society, Christian Action League, foreign, home and state missions offerings. In 1985, a van ministry was initiated, and later a bus was purchased.

Presently, our Building Steering Committee is in the early stages of a Building Program for additional educational facilities and improvements to our sanctuary. Our Jubilee year will be July 5, 1992. We praise God for all He has blessed Clover with, and for all the opportunities He has given us to serve Him.

THE HISTORY OF COLLEGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The College Avenue Baptist Church in Lenoir, N. C. was born out of a branch Sunday School started by the First Baptist Church, Lenoir in 1907, meeting in the home of Mrs. M. H. Mingus on Spainhour Street. Mr. Jim McCall was the first superintendent. As larger quarters became necessary to house the growing Sunday School, a dwelling house was rented and different pastors were invited to preach once a month. The mission Sunday School was known as Mingus' Chapel and met in the rented dwelling for several years. As the people responded to the preaching of the gospel, a desire to organize themselves into a regular Baptist church became very evident. And so, on July 17, 1910, Mingus' Chapel was organized into a Baptist church with the Reverend I. W. Thomas and J. S. Gwaltney acting as a presbytery. There were 16 charter members making up the new church: D. P. Griffin, S. C. Duncan, J. J. Harless, Cora Bell Clark, Rose Griffin, Minnie Griffin, Mary Lou Griffin, M. C. Griffin, Russell Triplett, Mrs. Russell Triplett, B. O. Prince, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Mingus, Mrs. S. E. Perry, Mrs. Louisa Kincaid, and E. G. Mingus. The Reverend I. W. Thomas was called as first pastor.

Soon after the organization, Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Griffin gave a lot on Realty Street upon which a one-room house of worship was built. Those were days of struggle and hardship, but the members of the new church, now called the Second Baptist Church, though small in number, labored and sacrificed and the church began to grow. For seven years, the Reverend Thomas led his little flock courageously and well. When he resigned in December 1916, the Reverend S. A. Rhyne was called as pastor. Serving in the next few years as pastor were the Reverend I. C. Miller, the Reverend R. L. Prestwood, and the Reverend W. H. Wall.

In November, 1923, the Reverend H. S. Benfield was called as pastor. By this time the membership had grown from 16 members to 158. The church had outgrown its house of worship again, and in January 1924, the building on Realty Street was sold and the Reform Church building located on the corner of Reform Street and College Avenue was purchased. The name of the church was changed to South Lenoir Baptist Church.

Rapid growth followed; twice it became necessary to make additions to the church building. In 1935, a three story, brick education building was built. Much free labor was given, saving in the cost. The Reverend Benfield served until November 1944. He was followed by Dr. Howard Weeks of Chapel Hill as supply pastor until the Reverend W. F. Woodall was called as pastor in April of 1945.

The period of 1944 to 1947, was one of growth, making it necessary for the church to build a new sanctuary and more educational space. A larger lot across the street was purchased and a new church building was begun. The name of the church was changed at this point to the College Avenue Baptist Church. The first service in the new sanctuary was held in May 1948. The indebtedness of \$63,000 for the new building was financed to be paid off with interest over a period of twelve years. But, in three years, two months, the debt was retired out of regular funds, without special drives.

Reverend Woodall served until January 1952. Dr. T. L. Cashwell began his pastorate on June 1, 1952. Further growth and building additions were accomplished by the time Dr. Cashwell resigned in January 1958, to accept a call to Albemarle, N. C. The Reverend James L. Pharr served as pastor from September 1958 until February 1964. He was followed by the Reverend B. C. Tschudy, May 1964 to 1972. During this time a new three-story educational building was constructed along with other renovations to existing buildings. In February 1974, Dr. Thad Dowdle became pastor. Dr. Dowdle resigned in August 1986, and current pastor, Curtis H. Tutterrow began his ministry here in April 1987.

College Avenue Baptist Church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1985, and planning is underway for the approach of the church's centennial. As a part of that planning, Pastor Tutterrow reports that the church has adopted long range plans that call for increased ministry to senior adults and youth. A childcare ministry was provided during the early days of Care House, a program of North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes to assist teenaged mothers. Also, there are plans to develop support groups and a ministry to

downtown businesses through a luncheon meeting program. Further renovations are in the planning stages to make the existing buildings more useful and to improve the appearance of the property.

College Avenue Baptist Church approaches the end of its first century dedicated to serving and glorifying God through ministry to His people. We are an ever enlarging family seeking to reach out to all those who need to know our God.

THE HISTORY OF CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Organized on September 17, 1908, with thirty-five charter members, Concord Baptist Church met in rented quarters for eighteen years. In 1926 a building was constructed on the present grounds and served the people until 1949. It was during this year that the auditorium was renovated and a new educational building was added. A new pastorium was realized during succeeding years.

For a number of years, the church saw a need for a new auditorium and additional educational space. Construction of a new auditorium and Sunday School rooms began in October, 1973. During the 16 1/2 months of construction, the church met at the former Granite Falls High School building. The new auditorium and educational facilities were completed in February 1975.

A renovation of Sunday School classes to make use of all space available began in 1991. This renovation included a completely remodeled Preschool Department with separate rooms for Bed Babies, Crawlers and Toddlers. The renovation was completed in 1993 with the remodeling of the Adult II and Children's Departments. The pastorium is also now being used for Sunday School space as the Youth House. On Sunday, August 23, 1992, the Sanctuary Choir was singing from the newly enlarged choir loft now seating sixty-five.

The growth in physical facilities has been accompanied by a greater spiritual ministry to people of all age levels and is reflected in the church's membership and a financial program that has greatly increased.

Pastor Paul Childers was on mission in Romania February 27-March 9, 1994. Concord members are now contributing funds to help build a church at Tia Mare in Romania.

At home, the church voted to open the doors of the Youth House (former pastorium) to begin a Hispanic Mission. The pastor is Reynaldo Cantu, a former volunteer with the Home Mission Board at the Harvest Time Church in Maiden. Reynaldo's wife, Juanita, works with him in the mission. Regular Sunday services at the mission began on Sunday, April 10, 1994 with Sunday

School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11:00 a.m. A Commissioning Service for the mission was held at Harvest Time Church on Saturday, April 9, 1994 at 5:00 p.m. with many Concord members attending.

The present membership of Concord is 667 with an enrollment of 523 in Sunday School. The church has been served by the following pastors: S. C. Ivey, C. M. Ervin, J. D. Fox, J. M. Shaver, T. E. Payne, W. E. Bost, Waldo Early, S. A. Stroup, Fred C. Roberts, Ernest W. Moore, John W. Wallace, G. Melvyn Curlee, Roy O. Collins, Jr., and Larry Estes. The church is now being served by Dr. Paul E. Childers, Pastor; the Rev. Terry Crouse, Minister of Music & Youth; and the Rev. Mack Fletcher, Minister of Education.

The thirty-five charter members were - N. F. Wilson, Jacob Wilson, W. R. Beach, S. C. Bryant, Larkin Travis, John Flemings, Will Dula, John Richards, Hilkie Phillips, John Clay, Sara Wilson, Lou Wilson, Mary Wilson, Cordia Mast, Della Emma Bryant, Safronia Beach, Ollie Yount, Carrie Wilson, Beatie Bryant, Essie Travis, Mary Dula, Julia Richards, Betsey Fleming, Mattie Phillips, Carrie Clay, Mary Clay, Cora Clay, Mary Triplette, Fannie Bolick, Julia Wilson, Clive Mast, Della Wallace, Johnsie Bryant, Martha Fox and Lizzie Bryant. Our last charter member, Mrs. Will Dula, died December 18, 1976.

Our oldest living member is Mrs. Nellie Triplett, a resident of Camelot Manor in Granite Falls. She celebrated her 95th birthday on February 8, 1994.

Mr. W. P. Richards, a charter member of the Sunday School at Concord, was honored for his many years of service as Music Director during special services on Old-Fashioned Day, Sunday, June 21, 1992. Mr. Richards led the music at Concord for thirty-five years (from the ministry of the Rev. T. E. Payne through the Rev. John Wallace).

The year of 1992 also marked the retirement of Concord's Hilda Bean Cowsert after serving as a North American missionary in Brazil for forty years. Mrs. Cowsert lives in Hickory, North Carolina, and is a member of West Hickory Baptist Church. Her mother, Naomi Helton, is a member

of Concord.

Concord Baptist Church looks forward to many years of active witness for the Lord in the community and in the Caldwell Association.

Submitted by Mrs. Mary Mull, Church Secretary
June 20, 1994

THE HISTORY OF CONWAY'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Conway's Chapel was founded in 1877, but was known as Tuckers Grove Baptist Church at that time. The church is in John's River Township.

Land for the first church was given to W.M. Puette for a fee of \$.50 on August 6, 1877. There was a stipulation; however, and that was that the land was to return to their heirs when it was no longer used for services.

In 1909, there became a need for either a larger church or a better one, and the land beside it was available, so action was taken to buy it and rebuild. The land was purchased from T.T. Clark and wife, Elizabeth, and contained 10 acres for the amount of \$80.00. The debt was paid in full August 17, 1915.

A Reverend Conway was pastor of the church at that time and it was decided when the new church was completed that it would be renamed Conway's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. It is not the oldest church in the Caldwell Association as a member, but it is by far the oldest building still in its original form. Many improvements have been made to preserve the church building. In 1984 a Fellowship Hall was completed with members helping with the construction. The building was paid off the following year with a note burning ceremony.

Many ministers served the church over the years. Their names are as follows: Rev. J.W. Fox, Rev. Jack Harris, Rev. McCall, Rev. Sam Silvers, Rev. Jay Younce, Rev. Ray Davis, Rev. Cecil McFela, Rev. Cliff Cooper, Rev. Reece, Rev. Will Bolick, Rev. Henry Colvard, Rev. Calvin Helton (constructed Sunday School rooms during their pastorate); Rev. Wayne Blanton, Rev. Perry Smith (two times), Rev. Ambrose Bryant (established a building fund during their pastorate); Rev. Ernest Curtis (paved road and built fellowship hall during his pastorate); Rev. Richard Crisp (put siding on church during his pastorate); and Rev. Bill Williams (present minister, has installed new heating system and paved road around cemetery during his pastorate).

There have been many spirit-filled revivals and singings held. Conway's Chapel Baptist Church supports two missionaries; one in Japan and one in Mexico.

Nowhere will you find a more beautiful church setting on a hillside with a cemetery in the back. Reverend Bill Williams invites all to come and worship in an old fashioned church. Sunday services are as follows: Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and Worship service at 11:00 a.m.

THE HISTORY OF CREST VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

The history of Crest View Baptist Church began on July 22, 1934, when, after a series of meetings had been held, a baptismal service took place in the creek on Indian Grave Road and twenty-two people were baptized. On August 5, 1934, by previous arrangement, Rev. George W. Sebastian, an ordained Baptist minister, along with deacons Harrison Watson and George Kincaid acting as Presbytery, asked J. R. Swanson, a layman, to act as clerk. They met with a group of people at the Hartley Hill School and proceeded to organize a Missionary Baptist Church to be known as Hartley Hill Baptist Church. Those who were baptized on July 22, 1934, became charter members along with others who joined by letter.

Rev. G. W. Sebastian also joined by letter from Purlear Church in Wilkes County and was called to be pastor. Mr. A. C. Teague was elected church clerk. This took place on Sunday morning, August 5, 1934. On that same Sunday night, others joined as candidates for baptism or by letter, making the total membership sixty-one (61). More people of the community joined and in three months, the membership stood at ninety-four (94).

Simple utility and thrift marked those early days of the church. A pot-bellied stove heated the building, curtains were used to divide the one room into four class rooms, and kerosene lamps were hung on the walls to provide light. It seems like a humble beginning but when the people lifted their voices in song and shouted the praises of God, you knew the Spirit of the Lord was present and everything was as God wanted it to be.

The church continued to grow and in less than two years, on May 31, 1936, the church voted to purchase a lot suitable for a church building. A beautiful frame building was constructed with six Sunday School rooms. The church moved into the new building in September of 1936. At this time the name was changed to Long Ford Baptist Church. The Lord continued to bless and soon more room was needed. In July 1939, the church building was raised and six more class rooms were constructed underneath. Later, additional rooms were added to the rear of the building. Such were the blessings of the Lord that in 1942, the church was debt free and on October 13 of the year, a

public burning of the mortgage was held.

In September 1947, services were changed from twice a month to full time services with Rev. Homer Messer as the first full time pastor.

In 1952, the church voted to purchase a lot on Highway 321 for a future church building. After careful planning and fund-raising, construction began in 1957, and the first service was held on June 22, 1958. The name of the church was changed at that time to Crest View Baptist Church.

Over the next decade, the church continued to grow and a number of improvements were made in facility and furnishings. Adjoining property was also acquired. The Lord blessed our stewardship and in January of 1971, a note-burning ceremony was held and Crest View Church was debt-free. As our needs grow, so do our Lord's blessings. In the 1980's a new fellowship hall and additional Sunday School space was added in a new building and through the Lord's blessing and our people's efforts, this building was completely paid for upon its completion.

In 1986, when Rev. Ponder was called to pastor another church, Dr. Dale Larew served as Interim Pastor until June of 1986, when the church family called Rev. Keith Shorter to serve as pastor. Keith and his wife, Lisa, began their ministry on July 20, 1986.

As the Crest View family joined together to serve the Lord and reach out to Caldwell County, God's blessings were evident. With church growth came an increasing workload leading to the addition to the church staff of a part-time secretary in 1987. The continual emphasis of growing the church through the Sunday School ministry led the church family in July of 1988 to call Rick Bene as a full-time Minister of Youth and Education.

By 1989, the church had grown beyond its current facility. After a lengthy study of options available to alleviate the problem, the church voted to have two morning worship services. An 8:30 am worship service was started in September of 1990.

The following have served Crest View Baptist Church as Pastor: Rev. G. W. Sebastian, 1934-1941; Rev. A. W. Eller, 1941 and also 1942-1943; Rev. W. W. Lyon, 1942; Rev. Luther E. Snipes, 1944; Rev. S. M. Stroupe, 1944-1946; Rev. Homer Messer, 1947-1952; Rev. Lawrence Miller, 1952-1954, and also 1958-1960; Rev. A. J. Swinson, 1954-1958; Rev. Bernard Tuttle, 1960-1978; Rev. Walter Ponder, 1978-1986; and Rev. Keith Shorter, 1986-Present.

These few facts do not tell all the story of God's work in this community and in our church over the past nearly 60 years. So much truly cannot be put into words. Crest View is a place where fellowship is sweet as one worships with family, friends, and neighbors. We rejoice in seeing our children grow up in the church and give thanks for all those whose hearts are touched and accept Jesus Christ's saving power here in our midst.

As we consider our past, we thank God for each person who played a part in making our church what it is today. We look to the future with confidence in our God and in His purpose for Crest View Baptist Church. No one person or group of people can make a church grow unless they are led by the Spirit of God. We at Crest View have been blessed to have leaders who were and still are led by the Holy Spirit. Our prayer is that in years to come, Crest View Baptist Church will not forget its humble beginnings and that it will continue in the will of God until Jesus Christ comes to claim His bride.

THE HISTORY OF DRY PONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

THE LITTLE WOODEN SCHOOL HOUSE THAT BECAME A CHURCH

In the year of 1891, nearly a hundred years ago, a brush arbor was built by the people in the small community of Dry Ponds. It was built in front of a little one room wooden school house. Can't you see the children, women and the men dragging pine tops to build this place of worship? There is no record of how long it had been since someone had preached in this community. Nevertheless a Preacher W. P. Evans and a Preacher Terrell from the Granite Falls Methodist Church came and conducted a revival. I dare say everyone came, because preaching was scarce and that made it more precious.

In that same year a Sunday School was started in the little wooden school with L. A. Berry as superintendent. Sunday School cards and literature were ordered through the Methodist Church. Sunday School survived for several years until Mr. Berry moved to Tennessee. No one would take his place, so the Sunday School died. What a tragedy, but a seed remained which meant that Jesus had not left them. And soon, in 1910, Miss Maude Haas, a young woman, felt the need for a Sunday School and visited the families in the area and they agreed,. So a Sunday School was formed and again no one would be Superintendent. They asked Miss Haas if she would be and she said she would do the best she could. She did this for 8 years until she married Henry Wilson. She resigned and he took her place until they moved to Statesville.

The Sunday School was held in the school building. This land and building belonged to the county. Some of the teachers who taught in this school (grades 1-7 were taught by one teacher) were Delia Blair, who boarded with John Wilson Family; Violet Chester who boarded with Azor Wilson; and Miss Perkins who also boarded with the John Wilson Family. Grandma Wilson packed a bushel basket of biscuits and lunch for her children, which numbered 11 and for the teacher and they all shared at lunchtime. The school/church was about 30 feet by 50 feet and was heated by a pot bellied stove. Sunday School classes were separated by a heavy cloth. The pump organ was played by Mrs. Esper Wilson Icard (who had

attended Appalachian College at Boone) and the stove was tended by Mr. Azor Wilson. There was an outside privy and a well in the yard, as well as a couple of shade trees.

In 1930 Dry Pond and Sawmills School were combined and the men in the community bought the school from the county and an additional 1 1/2 acres of land from Mrs. Theodore Hayes.

Families residing in the community and several miles surrounding were Icard, Callaway, Nelson, Hayes, Cannon, Turnmyre, Clontz, Wilson, Berry and Haas.

At this time the Methodist preacher came and preached one Sunday a month and the Baptist preacher from Mt. Zion at Sawmills came and preached one Sunday leaving Sundays for visiting and different denominations. A lot of these preachers were beginning and practicing at this time. Doctrine was not so much of an issue as was living according to the commandments and to the teachings of Jesus.

In this church I can remember Grandma Wilson being my Sunday School teacher and at Christmas 1930 she gave me a New Testament, my very first and only Bible. Grandma was a small 5 feet tall woman, who was gentle, kind, and sharing. She never seemed to get flustered, and she reared 11 children to be grown and they called her Ma and they called her Blessed. She loved flowers and there was never a flower that she would not share. I know there have been other Bibles, several translations, but not a one holds the place of my little Bible about the size of a Readers Digest. It has an imitation leather black covering that's a bit frayed and the pages are real yellow but the words still have the same meaning.

Sunday School continued in this wooden church from 1930 until 1939. No Christmas ever passed without a Christmas program given by the young people and Santa came at the end of the program and everyone, old and young was given a treat and continues to this day. The program was always held on Christmas eve.

Never has a treat been quite like this one, and the contents remain about the same, only thing you can't buy loose raisins still on the stem, so this is missing. The Christmas play usually contained a pantomime, like "Hark the Angels Sing" and my friends and cousins were dressed as angels and I always thought that was the prettiest sight I had ever seen. I always wanted to be an angel, but size and the fact my Mama could not make a gown left me out, and maybe that wasn't all the reasons. We always had a Christmas tree and Lacey Hayes helped to get our tree for many years. He had the first outside lighted Christmas tree I ever saw till I was grown. That tree was a sight to behold. On the way to play practice, we got to see it and we hung out the side of the truck and also pressed against the windows in a 1936 Chevrolet, black, brand new car, just to see the tree for as long as we possibly could. We had one 7 bulb strand of lights for our tree at home. Come Christmas eve we would take them off and take them to the church for the tree and after the program, would bring them home, hang them back on our tree and eat our first orange out of our treat. What memories and besides that, we took a half stick of peppermint stick candy and sucked the orange juice through the peppermint - and you talk about good, it was.

In the wooden church Uncle Azor had the church warm on Sunday morning. Don't you know how good that fire felt to the ones coming in wagons, horseback, and by foot and lucky ones in a Model-T truck. Speaking of ministry for the Lord, that's about as close as you can get to doing work for Him. After all, working for the Lord is what and how we treat people, "Whatsoever you do unto the least of these, you do unto me." He said it and that's the way it is. Uncle Azor not only built the fires but he and Aunt Maggie were janitors for many years and did a super job. He lost his sight and one leg but this did not hinder him from worshiping when he possibly could.

The year 1939 found the little wooden house pretty full and they talked about building a new church. They decided on field rocks as they could be had for the labor of hauling them. Many of the men and boys and Aunt Maggie Azor did just that. Lumber was donated and so the trustees including Oliver Smith and Gwyn Wilson and others went to see Mr. Arney at Duke Power in Morganton, getting a lease on 1 1/2 acres for 99 years at \$1.00 per year. This land was across the road from the old church. The building was finished with only a

small amount of paid labor. Tom and Titus Childers laid the rock and Grover Clark did some carpenter work. Mr. Dan Stubbs, who had moved on the river nearby gave \$200.00 which paid for the metal roof which is still good today. A lot of back breaking labor, sweat and toil and lots of love and pride went into this new church - a church for worshipers not by denominations only. The majority of the folks were Methodist and the preacher came one Sunday a month from Granite Falls and the Baptist preacher came one Sunday from Mt. Zion at Sawmills. The church was named Dry Pond Union Church.

On March 12, 1939 services were held for the first time by Rev. Reid Wall, Methodist preacher from Granite Falls.

In 1959, 20 years later, after some of the older ones passed away and many new ones were born, more space was needed and an educational building was added to the back of the church with the steel being erected by Wilson Powell, and the steps were built by his son, Curtis-Powell.

Rev. Audley Frazier was called as first full time pastor of the Union Church, with Rev. McRae Crawford preaching one Sunday, he being a Methodist. Two acres of land in front of the church were purchased from Gene Cox and 5 acres were exchanged with Duke Power by Dewey Wilson in the back of the church. A cemetery and a ballfield are back of the church. The ballfield is named for Dewey Wilson.

During the 80's a new fellowship building was built to the side of the cemetery and at the end of the ballfield. This is used for special occasions, such as social events. Also during the 80's a new church was built along the same lines as the old church using brick instead of rocks, folks being not quite as work brickle as their parents. A lovely church was built and was made a Baptist Church.

A history of the new church is being written by Eddie Wilson, who served on the building committee.

December 1989, Carolyn Moore (Mrs. Walter) did an ink sketch of both the old church and the new one. A limited number of prints were made and sold. Mrs. Moore gave Aunt Maggie Azor Wilson the original.

What a heritage we got from these folks. A Dad who did not question if we were going to attend church. As sure as Sunday came, we went to church and behaved or else. Some of us might remember about "or else," and have some small scars to prove it, and remind us that God's church is a Holy Place. He also taught us some other things - "That a good name is to be chosen than great riches", and after all a good name is great riches, and that the righteous won't go hungry, and to trust and believe and to know with all our hearts that there is a better place and He's waiting on us, along with Grandma and Grandpa Wilson, Grandma and Grandpa Kirby, a lot of friends and neighbors, a lot of aunts and uncles and even Little Tippie, Tony, Judy and Doug. Lest we forget.

Written by Louise Cox
January, 1990

THE NEW SANCTUARY

The 1980's were a time of growth and change for Dry Ponds Union Church. Our attendance was growing as were the activities involving our members. In the early 80's, the fellowship hall was built, but as the church progressed, it became evident that a larger sanctuary and more Sunday School rooms were needed.

Many possibilities were explored including; conducting multiple services, expanding the existing buildings, or building a new one. Since the old sanctuary had been in use since the 1930's, and since then many changes had been made in construction methods which would make expansion impractical, it was decided that a new building would be the best approach.

Work was begun to determine what type of building was needed. The New Building and Planning Committee was formed for this task with Ray Wilson as its chairman. Some of the committee members were: Neil Annas, Andrew Tramble, Nancy Ramsey, Maecile Ramsey, Chuck Calloway, Roger Brookshire, Dykes Wilson, Keith White, Blake Yost, and others. These people, along with Pastor Don Denton, began working on plans for the new building. This was in early 1986.

After much work and consultation, a plan was presented to the church. After some consideration, discussion, and modification, the church agreed to step out on faith and build the

new sanctuary.

The subject of finances was of primary importance. The church had some money, over \$100,000, but this building was going to cost nearly \$500,000. Such a large sum was more than the church could stand without a fund raising program.

Several other churches were contacted to discuss methods of fund raising. Because of its spiritual nature, the ability to involve a large amount of people, and the good track record other churches had enjoyed, it was decided to use the "Challenge To Build" program. Eddie Wilson was named director of this program. A consultant was sought to lead the church through the C.T.B. program. He was Pastor Richard Eskew of Yadkinville Baptist Church.

Committees were then formed to carry out the program. Some of the leaders were: Curtis Powell, Nancy Ramsey, Neil Annas, Pam Duncan, Imogene Turnmire, Bill Ramsey, Blake Yost, Melody Wilson, and Tim Wilson. Baine Wilson as Sunday School director helped promote the program through the classrooms.

The C.T.B. program required a 13 week period of intense effort, which eventually involved over 130 people. The climax was a church-wide banquet and the making of commitments. This took place in April 1987, and was very successful.

After 3 years, the C.T.B. program has raised nearly \$170,000. In addition, \$40,000 has been given to buy church furnishings. Without the success of this program, the generosity of our people, and the blessings of the Lord, it would not have been possible to afford this type of building.

Other changes have taken place at Dry Ponds in the first three years after the sanctuary was built. Under the fine leadership of Interim Pastor Willard Jenkins, the church has approved a constitution, a set of by-laws, applied for full membership in the Caldwell Baptist Association, and changed the church name to Dry Ponds Baptist Church.

While the new building is something we are all proud of, the church now faces the challenge of filling it. It is hoped that Dry Ponds Baptist Church will continue in a spirit of cooperation and have as its primary objective to win as many people to Jesus Christ as possible.

THE HISTORY OF DUDLEY SHOALS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Dudley Shoals Baptist Church was organized in 1861 by eleven people who came together from three other churches - Union, Concord, and Liberty Grove. Elder Robert L. Steele was called as the first pastor and it was decided that public worship would be held on the second Saturday and Sunday of each month.

The first building, a one room log cabin fourteen feet by sixteen feet, was located near the present Dudley Shoals School. The first record of property being purchased was in 1867 when two acres were purchased for the price of one dollar. A frame building was built on this property and used until around 1901 when it was sold for sixty-five dollars to the County School Board.

In 1901 another frame building, most of the materials and labor being donated by the people, was erected. Sunday School rooms were added in the early 1930's. The building was completely destroyed by fire in 1948, but immediately the congregation began laying plans for a new building. One year later the congregation began worshipping in the present building. Seeing the need for additional room the Sunday School rooms were built in 1959 along with remodeling the sanctuary.

The parsonage was built in 1952 on land donated by the late Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Sears, Sr. The Rev. Louis Price was the first to occupy the parsonage and he was also the first full-time pastor.

Several additions and improvements have been made to the church facility since 1959. These have included the paving of the parking lot, installation of air conditioning throughout the church, addition of nursery space, and the installation of chimes. In 1983, the congregation entered into the Challenge to Build program, with funds going to the expansion of the sanctuary and the addition of Sunday School classrooms. The total cost of expansion was \$230,000. Through much prayer and total church commitment, the entire amount was received within three years. This expansion was dedicated in November, 1984.

On December 9, 1990, the congregation again determined a need for additional educational space, and once again entered into the Challenge

to Build program. The cost of the addition is to be \$500,000. Once again the congregation is depending on the prayers and commitment of its members to financially meet this challenge.

Dudley Shoals continues to reach people for Christ. The church membership has grown to 730 with a Sunday School enrollment of 610 and a Discipleship Training enrollment of 229. An increase in attendance in all areas of church life, including mission organizations and worship services has also led to a growth in stewardship. The yearly church budget now exceeds \$326,000 and of this, 25% goes to the Cooperative Program and 5.25% goes to Caldwell Baptist Association. Missions is a great love of the people of Dudley Shoals Baptist, as they give sacrificially of their prayers, time, love, and money.

With this continued growth the church has also expanded its ministry through the expansion of its staff. In 1988, Dudley Shoals called its first Associate Pastor, Rev. Daniel W. Redding. Associate Pastor, Rev. Dusty Bradshaw, served 1990-92. Dr. Robert Weathers was called as Director of Ministry in 1992 and is serving faithfully.

In this, the 133th year of ministry of Dudley Shoals Baptist, the congregation looks back with prayers of thanksgiving to God for those who have given of themselves to share the Gospel of Christ with men, women, boys and girls. This continues to be the mission of Dudley Shoals Baptist Church as the church looks into the future.

1861 ~ PASTORS ~ 1991

Robert L. Steele	1861
Isaac Oxford	1861-1863
James Reid	1863-1866
George D. Sherrill	1866-1870
J. T. Shell	
Smith Ferguson	1870-1873
Christie Poole	1873-1879
J. P. Gualtney	1879-1884
W. J. Bumgarner	1884-1885
W. A. Poole	1885-1886
H. D. Lequex	1886-1888
W. A. Poole	1888-1889

J. P. Gualtney	1889-1892
J. M. Shaver	1892-1894
J. A. Downs	1894-1897
W. R. Beach	1897-1902
W. J. Bumgarner	1902-1917
E. V. Bumgarner	1917-1919
W. J. Bumgarner	1919-1920
B. F. Austin	1920-1922
J. W. Watts	1922-1931
T. E. Payne	1931-1935
C. A. Abernathy	1935-1936
J. G. Benfield	1936-1937
E. V. Bumgarner	1937-1943
Paul Hester	1943-1946
A. E. Watts	1946-1951
J. C. Brooks	1951-1952
J. L. Price	1953-1956
Hal Hovis	1956-1960
Fred Johnson	1960-1966
Donald Ferrell	1966-1971
Donald W. Ingle	1972-Present

**THE HISTORY
OF
EDGEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH**

For five or six years there had been irregular services by different denominations at Edgemont. Gradually a group of Baptists were gathered consisting of W.C. Moore, J. J. Coffey, Job Cook, B. B. Crisp, Mrs. Mary M. Estes, Mrs. Dorris More and others who went into the permanent organization of the church in November 1915.

As there was no house of worship in the town of Edgemont, the matter of building a church house was needed.

In the spring of 1915, a group of residents of the community led by the ladies of the community and supported by the State Board of Missions and the people generally, a beautiful and comfortable church building was built on the hill, where it now stands.

The land was donated by S.T. Nichols, General Manager of the Carolina and Southern Railway.

In September 1915, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lenoir, B.W. Simms was invited to supply for the church until they could get a pastor.

THE HISTORY OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday, August 11, 1981 a group of 11 people met at 10:00 a.m. for Bible study. This meeting took place in the home of Marcus and Marlene Sullivan. From this meeting grew Fellowship Baptist Church.

After following all necessary procedures the formation of the church was completed and Fellowship Baptist Church was chartered on Sunday, October 11, 1981. There were 24 charter members. They also adopted a Church Covenant.

On Sunday night, November 1, 1981, James W. Hamby formally accepted the call as Pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, the call having been extended to him on October 11, 1981. On November 8, 1981 the first deacons of Fellowship Baptist Church were elected. They were Marcus Sullivan, Leland Green and Donald Crump. Trustees elected were Nick Foust, Charlie Powell and David Green.

In March, 1982, Fellowship Baptist Church purchased 3 acres of land on Fairwood Drive, the present site of the church and a building committee was formed to start plans for a church building.

On May 2, 1982, a motion was made by the building committee that a 30' x 50' building be constructed on the recently purchased property.

Rev. James W. Hamby was ordained at 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 23, 1982, at College Avenue Baptist Church, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The new church building was first used on August 1, 1982. Then on August 8, 1982, the building was dedicated. This was almost exactly one year from the date of the first meeting and the current membership was 31.

On September 24, 1982, at the Annual Caldwell Baptist Associational Meeting, Fellowship Baptist Church was accepted under the watch-care of the association for 1 year.

By August, 1983, the church membership had reached 49. And in September, 1983, Fellowship Baptist Church was accepted into full membership

of the Caldwell Missionary Baptist Association.

On October 23, 1983, Paul Dula was ordained as a deacon.

December, 1983, saw the land indebtedness paid off.

By the 3rd anniversary of Fellowship Baptist Church the membership had increased to 86. This was August, 1984.

On August 21, 1984, another deacon, David Green was ordained.

In August, 1985, the building committee made a motion that the church accept a bid from Barlowe Construction Company, Conover, North Carolina for construction of a new building. The present building would be renovated for use as Sunday School classrooms. The current membership was 115.

The new sanctuary was first used on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1986. The first baptismal service in the new sanctuary was held on April 6, 1986.

The new sanctuary of Fellowship Baptist Church was dedicated on May 18, 1986.

On June 29, 1986, a charter member, Leland Green announced his surrender to the call into the gospel ministry.

By the church anniversary in 1986, the membership of Fellowship Baptist Church had reached 151.

August 24, 1986, saw the ordination of J. Leland Green into the gospel ministry.

In March, 1987, for the first time a cleaning service was employed. Prior to this the church members had rotated the cleaning service of the church. The church also voted to have the parking area paved. Following this, a speaker system was installed in the nursery area, paid for with a donation from two church members. Two other church members donated a microwave to the kitchen area.

The first Church Directory for Fellowship Baptist Church had a total of 72 family units participating - completion date was September, 1986.

Membership at Fellowship Baptist Church reached 198 in August, 1987. On August 30, 1987, the church hired a part-time music director, Jenny Crosby, who came to us from Florida.

On September 30, 1987, the church voted to purchase a Church Van - a 1980 Dodge Van, 15 passengers.

Mack Jarvis III and John McCarson were ordained as deacons on October 25, 1987.

On January 3, 1988, Charles Fox was licensed into the gospel ministry.

Then on May 4, 1988, Fellowship Baptist Church voted to hire our current bivocational pastor, James W. Hamby as a full time pastor thus ending his secular employment.

By August, 1988, the growth of the church membership had reached 214.

On September 7, 1988, the church authorized the trustees to negotiate a deal for approximately 5 acres of land adjacent to the current church property.

On February 24, 1989, the church voted to renovate the basement of the church to accommodate Sunday School classrooms, putting up permanent walls.

A new deacon, Ed Haigh was ordained on March 12, 1989.

A part-time clerical secretary to work approximately 15 hours per week was hired July 5, 1989. Then on September 6, 1989, the deacons recommended the purchase of a computer for church use. A church member who worked with computers was invaluable in obtaining the needed computer. The church membership reached 250 by August, 1989.

Still another deacon, Frank Reid was ordained on October 15, 1989.

In March, 1990, the church purchased the R. H. McNeil house to provide immediate educational space. This property joins the church property on one side and was much needed for additional Sunday School classrooms. This house is termed "the Annex".

In July, 1990, the church voted to have information packets about the church made up to hand out to visitors and also to prospects when church members visit in the homes.

At the beginning of the Associational Church year, October 1990, the church membership was 256. A total of 237 was enrolled in Sunday School.

On October 10, 1990, the pastor stated that a church member, Randy Gambrell is applying for admission to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The church voted to recommend Randy for admission.

Upon the servicing of the church heat pump, the church was told it needed to be replaced, so a separate fund was set up for donations toward a new heat pump. This fund is rapidly reaching the set goal. However, the old one is still giving service.

No doubt God has blessed Fellowship Baptist Church greatly, even from that first meeting. This can be noted by the membership growth as well as the church influence in the community.

God has always sent to Fellowship Baptist Church a qualified person to fill whatever vacancy the church had. The only pastor the church has had, Rev. James W. Hamby, is still serving very efficiently. God has truly blessed the members of Fellowship Baptist Church.

THE HISTORY OF FLEMINGS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

What stands today as Flemings Chapel Baptist Church is a testimony to dedication and faithfulness. Many of the present church members can trace their roots to one or more of the first settlers in Caldwell County.

On the fourth Saturday in September 1867, a number of persons in the neighborhood of what came to be called "The Burnt Schoolhouse" banded together for the purpose of being constituted into a Baptist Church. A presbytery, consisting of Elders R. H. Moody, H. West, and G. D. Sherrill, recommended the constitution of an arm of a church. The group petitioned Lower Creek Baptist Church for their help and cooperation in establishing the work. On the fourth Saturday in November, fourteen members were organized into an arm of Lower Creek. Elder G. D. Sherrill was chosen as the first pastor, and Elder R. T. Fleming the first clerk.

In April 1869, the arm of Lower Creek at Flemings Chapel voted to organize a regular Baptist Church. This became a reality on the fourth Saturday in May. From its original beginning with services on Saturday and Sunday once a month, the church has now grown to full-time weekly services.

The following is as nearly complete a list of pastors as could be determined: G. D. Sherrill, R. H. Moody, D. W. Conway, B. H. Martin, Bob Fleming, Solomon Gwaltney, W. H. Hull, J. M. Harris, H. M. Croom, M. L. Clark, J. F. Crisp, S. B. McCall, Ansul Pardue, Boyd Cannon, Bob Prestwood, Tommy Shoemaker, W. R. Moss, Jay Younce, Sam Silvers, W. L. Sorrells, James R. Lail, Stanley Townsend, and David C. Payne. Our current pastor is Rev. Richard Brown. Through the years the church has ordained ten men to the Gospel ministry.

The first house of worship was built of logs and constructed about 1871. Approximately thirty years later the log building was torn down and replaced with a frame building as the church realized the need for a better place of worship. This frame building was erected in 1897.

At the turn of the century wings were added in order to provide more room. In 1953 a basement was completed, adding space for Sunday School rooms. Also that year the building was remodeled and veneered with brick. In 1960 the church erected a two story educational building designed to meet the needs of the church for the years ahead. The church completely remodeled and refurnished its auditorium in 1972. The following year a fellowship hall was added on the church property.

On January 21, 1986, the church sanctuary burned to the ground, though the educational building was saved. Worship services were held in the fellowship hall until the completion of the new auditorium. The first worship service was held in the new sanctuary on November 22, 1987.

The present estimated value of the church property is \$1,000,000.00.

THE HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

On August 1, 1982, a group of 65 people met to organize a Baptist Church which was to be called "Friendship Baptist Church." These people began services in what was the former Comer Drapery Building and met there for one year. Mr. Edwin Price was called as pastor on a temporary basis, but in 1983, was ordained and began to serve the church on a permanent basis. The church voted to be a Southern Baptist Church and requested membership in the Caldwell Baptist Association. Friendship Baptist Church was chartered February 13, 1983, with 175 charter members. On August 15, 1982, the church voted to purchase 12 acres of land from Howard Farr. This land is located on the Horseshoe Bend Road just outside of Hudson. There was a ground breaking service for the sanctuary on April 3, 1984, during the Easter Sunrise Service. In 1984, the church was received into the full fellowship of the Caldwell Baptist Association. On Easter Sunday of 1984, the church began meeting in the basement of the new building until a sanctuary was completed on September 19, 1985.

Because of the cheerful giving of its congregation, the church was able to build a sanctuary which will seat approximately 650 people and Sunday School space for approximately 200 at an estimated cost of \$300,000. and only borrowed \$180,000. Much hard work and many hours were given by the congregation.

Rev. Edwin Price resigned as pastor in October of 1985, and Rev. Frank Denning was called as pastor on June 15, 1986. Rev. Denning and his family began joining in the excitement that has always been a part of Friendship Baptist Church and the church continued to grow.

The church soon began to outgrow its educational space and began a new phase of construction. This second building contains nearly 10,000 square feet of space for the office areas, a 300-seat capacity fellowship hall, kitchen, choir rehearsal room and class rooms for Sunday School and other Bible learning opportunities. The previous fellowship hall was reconstructed to make additional rooms of learning and a library/conference room, plus additional nursery space for our growing pre-school department. The cost of the new construction was approximately \$386,500. after completed and furnished. The original 65 people who met to organize the Friendship Baptist Church has now grown to become a church with 426 members with 409 on the Sunday School roll, averaging well over 200 in attendance each Sunday.

Since its organization, Friendship Baptist Church has been a very vital part of this community. Friendship lives up to its name in many ways. The church is full of Spiritual warmth, love and friendliness to all. The church has a burden for people who need Jesus as their personal Savior and who need a place to worship. There is a vision of continuous outreach and inreach ministries to all people. This has been one of the reasons there has been such constant and stable growth in this congregation. As the church continues to grow, so will its ministries and needs. Everyone has a place at Friendship and everyone's place must be filled with lives serving the Lord together to continue to fulfill the Great Commission.

**THE HISTORY
OF
GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH**

On December 27, 1992, the Gethsemane Baptist Congregation met at East Flat Baptist Church at 3:00 p.m. with hearts and minds set to establish a church under God's will and leadership. Rev. Gary Hayes served as pastor. Worship services were conducted for 7 weeks at East Flat with the congregation meeting on Wednesday nights in the homes of various members.

On Sunday, February 14, 1993, the congregation held their first meeting in the present facility. The congregation was fortunate to have received many donations including the pews, a piano, lumber, hymnals, lecterns, chalkboard, bookcase, and tables.

David Keever, Tony Johnson, and Chris Church served as speakers for the congregation as the church searched for an interim pastor. The Rev. Ralph Staton was elected pastor on August 29, 1993.

A service to constitute as a church was held at 3:00 p.m. on October 10, 1993. Rev. Dale Fisher, Caldwell Baptist Association Director of Missions, delivered the message. Following the message an invitation was given to receive Charter Members. Twenty-nine of the congregation applied for church membership.

The church was accepted under the watchcare of the Caldwell Baptist Association on October 29, 1993 during the 109th Annual Meeting of the Association.

ADMENDMENT

On October 27, 1994, during the 110th Annual Meeting of the Caldwell Baptist Association, the association voted to accept the Gethsemane Baptist Church as a member of the Caldwell Baptist Association.

THE HISTORY OF GRANDIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Grandin Baptist Church was organized on Sunday, January 18, 1914, in Mount Bethel School, where services had been held from time to time under the leadership of the Rev. I. W. Thomas, the Rev. Joe G. Benfield, Miss Ida Greer, Miss Cora Greer and Miss Clara Greer.

The Rev. W. R. Bradshaw, assistant corresponding secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Rev. Joe G. Benfield composed the organizing Presbytry.

By a unanimous vote, the Rev. Joe Benfield was chosen first pastor of the church. He was then serving as a missionary from the state board.

The Sunday School was organized in April, 1914, and was admitted into the Caldwell County Baptist Association in September of that year.

T. A. Andrews, P. A. Eller and T. M. Barlow were elected church trustees. T. A. Andrews and H. N. Suddreth, who had been serving as deacons in the Kings Creek Baptist Church, were the first deacons.

Miss Ida Greer was appointed church treasurer in 1914 and served in that position until September 30, 1950 when William Lafayette Lackey succeeded her.

In 1925, the present church site was given by Grandin Lumber Company, and under the leadership of the Rev. H. S. Benfield, pastor, and J. R. Lackey and Miss Cora Greer, church trustees, the present building was erected.

In 1938, Grandin Church organized a mission Sunday School in Little Kings Creek community; one year later, New Hope Baptist Church was organized.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1937 through the work of Mrs. W. R. Beach, Miss Ida Greer, Miss Cora Greer, Miss Clara Greer, Miss Dorothy Lackey and Mrs. Bill Howell. Then in 1941, these women organized the society in the following churches: Kings Creek, Piney Grove, New Hope and Beaver Creek.

Training Union was organized in 1947.

Pastors of Grandin Baptist Church include the Rev. Joe G. Benfield, January 18, 1914 - June 1918; the Rev. L. W. Teague, April 1919 - August 1919; the Rev. H. S. Benfield, March 1920 - September 11, 1936; the Rev. W. R. Beach, October 4, 1936 - September 11, 1938; the Rev. A. W. Watts, September 11, 1938 - November 23, 1941; the Rev. W. O. Johnson, December 4, 1941 - August 3, 1947; the Rev. Grant R. Miller, Jr., September 14, 1947 - September 26, 1948; the Rev. Willard L. Jenkins, February 6, 1949 - April 21, 1952; the Rev. Bernard R. Tuttle, September 7, 1952 - October 5, 1953; the Rev. John W. Wells, November 22, 1953 - November 18, 1956; the Rev. Hughey H. McManus, January 6, 1957 - April 12, 1962; the Rev. David Osbourne, November 4, 1962 - March 7, 1965; the Rev. Gary James, April 11, 1965 - July 3, 1966; the Rev. G. Morris Tuttle, August 28, 1966 - November 10, 1967; the Rev. R. B. Burnett, March, 1968 - November 1973; the Rev. W. B. Vaughan, March 1974 - June 1983; the Rev. A. J. Singley July 1983 - September 1986; and the Rev. Edwin Price, January 1987 to the present.

Clerks of the church include P. A. Eller, January 28, 1914 - June 1914; H. N. Suddreth, September 6, 1914; T. G. Greene, January 22, 1922; W. T. Turnmire, November 23, 1922; T. G. Greene, November 2, 1924 - May 1927; Lloyd Suddreth, June 1927 - January 1935; Hill C. Lackey, February 1935 - September 1952; Edgar Howell, October 1952 - February 1953; Ernest Hayes, March 1, 1953 - August 1, 1954; Hill C. Lackey, October 1, 1954 - September 30, 1962; Mrs. G. M. Icenhour, October 1, 1962 - 1976; Mrs. Donna Curtis, October 1976; Miss Eileen Church, September, 1976 - August, 1977; Mrs. Donna Curtis, September 1977 - June 1978; Mrs. Vallie (G. M.) Icenhour, July 1978 - October 1987 and Mrs. Wilma (Cecil) Bowlin, October 1987 to the present.

Treasurers of the church are Miss Ida Greer, 1914 - September 30, 1950; William Lafayette Lackey, October 1950 - December 3, 1971; Mrs. Judy Lackey Greene, December 1971 - 1973; Mrs. Vallie (G. M.) Icenhour, October 1973 - September, 1977; Mrs. Dorothy (Glenn) Lackey, October, 1977 -

April, 1978; Mrs. Vallie (G.M.) Icenhour, May 1978 - September 1987 and Mrs. Wilma (Cecil) Bowlin, October, 1987 to the present.

Sunday School Superintendents of Grandin Baptist Church include P. A. Eller, April 1, 1914 - June 1914; G. M. (Mack) Icenhour, 1914 - 1923; T. G. Greene, August 1923 - 1926; R. W. Greene, October 1927 - 1935; Hill C. Lackey, June 1942 - September 30, 1952; Mrs. Bill (Alice) Howell, October 5, 1952 - September 30, 1953; Ernest Hayes, October 4, 1953 - September 30, 1954; Hill C. Lackey, October 3, 1954 - September 30, 1956; Mrs. Wm. L. (Irene) Lackey, October 7, 1956 - September 30, 1957; Mrs. H. H. (Ruth) McManus, October 6, 1957 - September 30, 1958; Jess C. Hawkins, October 5, 1958 - July 8, 1962; Hill C. Lackey, July 15, 1962 - September 30, 1962; Columbus Holloway Kirby, October 7, 1962 - December 26, 1967; Don Edd Pennell, February 11, 1968 - September, 1970; Gary L. Sherrill, October, 1970 - September, 1973; Mrs. Irene (Wm. L.) Lackey, October 1973 - 1975; Wm. (Willie) Kanupp, October, 1975 - October, 1977; Mrs. Irene (W.L.) Lackey, October, 1977 - September, 1987; and Cecil Bowlin, October 1987 to the present.

Charter members of the church are H. N. Suddreth, Mrs. H. N. Suddreth, Mrs. Rebecca Coffey, Miss Clara Coffey, T. M. Barlow, Mrs. T. M. Barlow, Charlie Barlow, Spurgeon Barlow, Jasper Barlow, Joseph Barlow, Miss Martha Barlow, Miss Minnie Barlow, Miss Luna Barlow, Miss Effie Barlow, Miss Ida Greer, Miss Cora Greer, Miss Clara Greer, T. A. Andrews, Mrs. T. A. Andrews, Miss Lou Andrews, Carl Andrews, Mrs. R. D. Horton, Mrs. S. Rosa Horton, Mrs. John L. Jones, Miss Elma Horton, Samuel Livingston, Mrs. Samuel Livingston, P. A. Eller, Mrs. P. A. Eller, and Mrs. M. C. Oxford.

**THE HISTORY
OF
GRANDVIEW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Grandview Park Baptist Church was organized on May 9, 1930. Charter members were:

Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Byerley, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. G.R. McLean, Mr. & Mrs. J.L. Owens, Mr. & Mrs. F.K. Littlejohn, Mrs. Robert Prestwood, Miss Ruth Owens, and Miss Grace Watson.

The first Deacons were:

Mr. W.H. Byerley, Mr. F.I. Littlejohn, Mr. G.R. McLean, Mr. Joe Gibson, and Mr. J.L. McLean.

The first church was a wooden structure and had part-time pastors which served through 1959:

Rev. E.J. Caldwell, Rev. Wade Bryant, Rev. G.L. Greene, Rev. G.B. McCall, Rev. J.L. Silver, Rev. Paul Wilson, Rev. Samuel Sims, Rev. D.L. Bumgarner, Rev. W.H. Caldwell, and Rev. R.B. Burnette.

In 1959 a full-time pastor Rev. H. Dean Harrold was elected. In 1961 under Rev. Harrold's leadership, a new brick church was built. The pastors since Rev. Harrold were:

Rev. W.T. Sorrells, Rev. McCoy Robinson, Rev. Dale Thornburg, Rev. Jimmy Prevette, Rev. Gyles Widener, and Rev. Ronnie Rogers.

Rev. J. W. Crouse is interim pastor at the present time.

THE HISTORY OF GRANITE FALLS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

"100 yesteryears; the best is yet to be" was the theme of the centennial celebration of the First Baptist Church, Granite Falls, North Carolina, June 17, 1990. The members, families, and friends rejoiced as they worshiped with grateful hearts for the spiritual heritage that was theirs.

Julia Austin, J. D. Berry, Lydda Berry, M. E. Berry, A. J. Coffey, Sara Elmore, W. L. Elmore, C. T. Berry, George W. Houck, Blanch Houck, J. Henry Martin, Francis Martin, Henry C. Mackie, Mary Elizabeth Mackie, and the Reverend C. M. Murchison met the third Sunday of June, 1890 in a single-room frame structure, which was to serve as the first church building, to organize the First Baptist Church of Granite Falls.

The Sunday School was organized in 1885 with forty-eight enrolled. Average attendance was 25 and expenses for that year were \$5.00. By 1920 the enrollment had grown to 90 with 11 officers and teachers. Expenses for that year were \$48.00. The church membership in 1990 is 700 and the total receipts are \$337,582.23.

In 1907-1908 a new brick church, located across the street from the present structure, was built mostly by members and friends. Rev. J. J. L. Sherwood was the first pastor in this building. A Sunday School addition was built during the pastorate of the Rev. S. W. Bennett. A parsonage on South Main Street was built in 1925 under the leadership of the Rev. J. L. Teague.

The Rev. P. D. Fletcher was the pastor when the Luther Harrold property and home was purchased and was first used as an annex of the church.

A ground-breaking ceremony, led by the Rev. C. R. Hinton for a new church building, was held March, 1952. The building was completed within a years time. The most distinguished feature of the church is a beautiful steeple with stained glass windows that are lighted at night and can be seen throughout the area. The steeple is a gift of the A. O. Mackie Family, descendants of charter members. Chimes, given in memory of Dr. Albert Corpening by his family in 1947, were transferred from the old building to the present church. There is a well equipped three story education building

which contains a chapel, kitchen, fellowship room, offices, and assembly and classrooms for various departments. The library is the most recent addition to the education building and houses many books, films, records, tapes, magazines, and audio-visual equipment.

July, 1961, an open house was observed for a parsonage on Crestview Street. It has a living room, pastor's study, family-dining-kitchen combination, four bedrooms, a full basement, three and one-half baths, and a two car garage.

The Abernethy property next door to the church was purchased in 1962 and was renovated in 1970 for use as a home for the Minister of Music and Education, or as rental property. An annex was constructed in 1973. This building was designed to serve as a youth and recreation building.

In 1979 the entire church was refurnished, adding more beauty and comfort for the congregation. The library was moved and enlarged, making it more functional. A ramp was built at the front of the church for the handicapped. A more efficient sound and recording system was installed. Three organs have been purchased; the one being used now is an Allen computer organ. A grand piano was given to the church in 1980 by Mrs. Jessie Jackson through her bequest of \$5,000.

The Rev. Jack Coffey, Rev. Jessie Bowman, Rob Evans, and Brenda Caldwell have responded favorably to God's call through a Christian vocation. Mrs. Marietta Smith and Mrs. Pamela Johnston are both ministering in church music on a part-time basis; Pam has been elected to serve as Music Director.

Pat Benfield has been serving as Youth Director since 1986.

The pastors who have served the church are: Rev. C. M. Murchison, Rev. M. P. Matheny, Rev. W. R. Bradshaw, Rev. J. G. Pullian, Rev. W. R. Beach, Rev. W. P. Southern, Rev. J. J. L. Sherwood, Rev. C. S. Cashwell, Rev. C. A. Rhyne, Rev. W. A. Stephenson, Rev. J. B. Pruitt, Rev. L. W. Teague, Rev. H. W. P. Hill, Rev. J. L. Teague, Rev. S. W.

Bennett, Rev. G. C. Teague, Rev. P. D. Fletcher,
Rev. C. T. Hinton, Rev. Paul E. Bruce, Rev.
Homer E. Bradey, Rev. J. Claud Dick, and Dr.
Robert B. Evans, Jr.

THE HISTORY OF GREEN ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

Located off Highway 268 on the Buffalo Cove Road at a place known as "Lick-Log Branch," Green Rock Baptist Church was constituted March 16, 1889. Twenty-three charter members made up this congregation. They were: John McLoud, Jane McLoud, J. L. Mays, Sr., Nancy Mays, J. L. Mays, Jr., Sarah Mays, Columbus Mays, Nancy E. Hawkins, Calvin H. Hawkins, Martha E. Hawkins, John L. Hawkins, Sarah L. Hawkins, William Coffey, Sarah E. Hawkins, T. C. Coffey, Margaret Coffey, Bartlett Coffey, Mary Coffey, Leander Holder, M. E. Holder, G. E. Messick, Nancy P. Conley, and Rebecca Simmons.

The church organized by the Rev. Larkin Pipes and the Rev. S. T. Carrol, had as its meeting place the home of William Coffey, grandfather of Wallace E. Coffey of Happy Valley. First deacons to serve were: J. L. Mays and T. C. Coffey. First clerk was Calvin H. Hawkins.

Later, services held monthly for many years, were moved to the little one-room Green Rock School House which is believed to have been built in the 1850's. As the Lord continued to lead and bless the congregation, in 1923 a larger building was constructed, using some materials salvaged from the former building. This served dual purposes - a school and a church.

By the help of the Lord, thirty pastors and four church clerks have lead the church now in its ninety-fourth year.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Leonard B. Beane, now deceased, God saw the needs of the people and in 1954, with much prayer and hard work, the present building was constructed.

In 1961, the Rev. Roscoe L. Morrow, was called as the first full-time pastor. He served until his death in 1971. During this ministry many souls were added to the church, almost doubling its membership. Needed improvements were made: Sunday School rooms were completed, the wood-burning stove was replaced by an oil furnace, floor carpeted, and new pews were purchased. Since that time central air conditioning has been installed.

The eighty-member church as an average attendance of twenty-five in Sunday School. Presently serving as active deacons are: Hoy Moretz, Bennie Connor, and Howard Church.

A very unique fact is that a land deed has just recently been acquired with the property being granted to the church by Mrs. Doris H. Hawkins and the Hoy Moretzs.

Main event of the year is the Fellowship and Homecoming Service held each October.

Source: Church records and members.

Ginelle Conley, Church Clerk

(The above history which was written in 1983 is taken from The Heritage of Caldwell County and is used by permission.)

THE HISTORY OF GREEN VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Green Valley Baptist Church was formed in 1888 on the John's River Road north of Collettsville, N. C. On February 22, 1889 the church was constituted with fifteen members. Elders John Crisp and A.S. Church of the Caldwell and E.M. Gragg of the Stony Fork Associations were the constituting presbytery. Elder E.D. Crisp was called as the first pastor.

The Abstracts of Principles for Green Valley, Green Rock, Lenoir and Mt. Zion were read and received at the Associational meeting held at the Globe Church on September 19, 1889.

By deed dated December 19, 1889, the church purchased the first acre of land on the bank of John's River for \$1.00.

Green Valley grew in membership. Many revivals and singing events with dinner on the ground were enjoyed by members, family and friends who traveled many miles, often on foot from the surrounding mountain areas.

The first church succumbed to flood waters. Another church was built on higher ground. The present church was built in 1941 on yet higher ground.

Green Valley has been served by 40 pastors plus supply pastors in the past 107 years. Many of these pastors served two or three times. Jesse Herring Crisp, served his final term as a full time pastor at Green Valley from 1963 to 1966. Rev. Crisp was the grandson of one of the constituting presbytery, John Crisp, and the son of the first pastor, Edmund Dean Crisp. Rev. Dean Crisp served three terms for a total of seventeen years.

The white church building resides on a knoll overlooking a beautiful mountain valley with a view of John's River and the mountain range from Adam's Knob to Maple Grove. Bad weather access was improved in recent years when the road was paved from the upper end of John's River past the church to the first bridge.

Green Valley is organized and operates much as it has from the day the church began. Today's weekly attendance averages fifty. Baptizings are still held in the John's River.

**THE HISTORY
OF
HARRIS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Harris Chapel Baptist Church was organized on April 6, 1912. Mr. Richard Harris donated the first acre of land on which the original building stood. The church was fully organized and self-supporting from the beginning. There were thirty-seven people who joined at the first organizational meeting. A history of Harris Chapel compiled in 1971 gives the following account of the purchase: "A delegate...was given the task of contacting and arranging a meeting with the Methodist Conference to purchase said church building. Uncle George Smith spent the better part of a day discussing and negotiating the purchase and successfully reached an agreement to purchase the property for the sum of \$30.00. The deed was contracted March 16, 1912, an additional one-half acre of land was purchased for the sum of \$10.00. The first brick structure was completed in 1947. The first pastor was Bro. Jake Harris, followed by eleven more pastors."

In 1957, a donation of three acres of land made way for the construction of an educational building. Additionally, some fifteen acres were purchased in July of 1965.

The first new bus was bought on May 5, 1968 at a cost of approximately \$6,000.

The Lord has continually blessed Harris Chapel. An activity building was completed in the 1970's. The Christian Academy opened for the first school year in 1983-1984. Homecoming and a ground-breaking were held on Sunday, June 16, 1985 for the construction of a new gymnasium with basketball courts, dressing rooms with showers, concession stand, more classrooms, as well as a stage area. The most recent addition was a new library, conference room, pastor's study, and another Sunday School classroom.

A new activity bus was purchased in 1987 at a cost of \$27,000.

A seventy-fifth anniversary celebration of the church was held on Sunday, April 5, 1987. A tour bus was purchased on July 4, 1990 at a cost of \$15,000 from Carolina-America in Greensboro.

The church ministers to children through an active bus ministry and children's church, to young people through the "WORD OF LIFE" Club, to senior citizens through "GOLDEN AGERS" meetings, to shut-ins through the tape ministry, and supports missionaries and activities through Mission Friends, GA's, Acteens, BYW, Baptist Women, and Baptist Men organizations. God's Word is proclaimed by Sunday school teachers every Sunday morning in twenty-five Sunday school classes.

Bro. J. Lynn Parsons, his wife, Becky, and daughters, Jessica and Bethany, moved to the church field on Monday, October 7, 1991. Bro. Parsons brought the first Sunday morning message on October 13, 1991 at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Harris Chapel Baptist Church has a vision to reach and win souls for Christ and to meet the needs of the people throughout the community.

THE HISTORY OF HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Harrisburg Baptist Church was born on January 30, 1955, out of a God-inspired dream of the leaders of First Baptist Church, Lenoir. They had a vision for the future and were willing to follow that vision.

The Reverend M.O. Owens, Jr., pastor, along with teachers of First Baptist started a Sunday School in a small house owned by Albert Winkler. These services were held in the afternoon for three months. In October of that same year the Reverend M.O. Owens began conducting worship services at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School to follow at Harrisburg Baptist Mission, so he could fulfill his responsibility at First Baptist Church at 11:00 o'clock.

In the spring of 1956, the Reverend D.L. Bumgarner was called as pastor. Grady Kincaid and Charles Johnson, Jr., representatives of the First Church taught the Adult Sunday School Class, and other classes were taught by people from Harrisburg Chapel.

On August 23, 1956, the trustees of First Baptist Church bought the L.R. May property for the future church, and services were held in the house on that property.

On October 26, 1956, the Chapel was authorized by the First Church to accept members through its own congregation. The charter membership consisted of: Rev. & Mrs. D.L. Bumgarner, Ray Bumgarner, Grady Bumgarner, Mrs. Eugene (Doris Bumgarner) Carroll, Mr. & Mrs. S.R. Collins, Mrs. Wes Fox, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Mayberry, Mrs. Frances Price, Mrs. Broadus Price, Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Tolbert, Boyd Tolbert, Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Triplett, Mrs. Ben Watson, Garry Watson and Larry Watson.

In March 1960, the membership of First Baptist voted to appoint a Building Committee composed of George Boutwell, Chairman, Charles Johnson, Jr., Paul Broyhill, J.B. Anglely, Howard Mayberry, Clarence Holden and H.B. Anderson, along with E.C. McCall, Chairman of the Deacons, and the pastor of the First Baptist as Ex-Officio members.

The building was built for approximately

\$40,000.00 with the upstairs not yet complete. On June 4, 1961, Dedication Services were held with the building dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Steven Johnson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson, Jr.

In the spring of 1972, our people saw the need to complete the upstairs and remodel the auditorium. A building committee was elected consisting of Eugene Carroll, Chairman, Mrs. Ray Church, Howard Mayberry, Mrs. Frances Price and James Livingston, who worked closely with the Mission & Education Committee of the First Church. The total cost of completing the upstairs, remodeling the auditorium (including installing pews to replace individual chairs), and to air condition and heat the entire building was approximately \$55,000.00. The First Church donated \$11,000.00 toward in incurred debt of the building and permitted Harrisburg Chapel to borrow \$40,000.00 to be paid back in seven years.

A Dedication Service was held on April 1, 1973 following the completion of the building. With the Lord blessing, Harrisburg people paid off the debt with a note-burning ceremony in September 1975.

On May 28, 1978, Thomas Kevin Greene, son of Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Greene, was ordained into the Gospel Ministry at Harrisburg with the Senior Minister of First Baptist, Rev. Fred D. Barnes, leading the Ordination Service.

In an impressive service in the afternoon of April 1, 1979, the Trustees of the First Baptist Church turned the Harrisburg property over to the Trustees of Harrisburg Chapel, who were: Eugene Carroll, Howard Mayberry and Harold Blankenship. A membership of 188 members was also turned over to the clerk, Mrs. Frances Price, at that time, and Harrisburg Chapel became Harrisburg Baptist Church.

God has continued to bless the efforts of His people at Harrisburg. A steeple has been placed on the building and the parking lot has been paved, an organ and van have been purchased and other improvements made.

Deacons who have or are now serving Harrisburg

are: W.R. Stone, S.R. Collins, Howard Mayberry, J.B. Angley, Eugene Carroll, Garry Watson, Larry Watson, Clyde Jarvis, Stanley Greene, Wayne Hagaman, Ray Church, Harold Blankenship. Clarence Helderman, David Newcomb, David Ledbetter, Tommy Watson, Jerry Younce, Tom Proffitt, David Greene, Ron Burgett, Stanley Taylor, Clarence Coffey (Life), Boyd Campbell, Bernard Norris, Cliff Ellis, David Clark, Dwayne Calloway, Dennis Norris, Chris Shore, and Danny Miller. (Some of these are deceased, others have moved their membership, each have served the church well.)

Pastors who have served Harrisburg along with staff members from First Baptist Church are: Rev. D.L. Bumgarner, Rev. Donald Mimbs, Rev. Robert Frye, Rev. J.E. Ledbetter, Rev. Jimmy A. Privette, Rev. Ralph Gouge, Rev. Stephen Perrou, Jr., Rev. Ted A. Williams, and the present pastor, Rev. Tommy James.

In 1994, the church voted to renovate the sanctuary as well as the entire first floor of the church. The walls were shetrocked, new carpet was placed down, and the pews were re-padded.

The 1995, the church pruchased a new van and extended teh picnic shelter to provide parking for the van.

The total amount of remodeling as well as the purchase of the van was approximately \$37,000.00.

We are proud of the improvements that have been made at Harrisburg Baptist Church and it is our prayer that God will get glory from them.

The Lord has blessed the people of Harrisburg Baptist Church who know that, "...if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we are bond or free: and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." I Corinthians 12:13-14.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mrs. Frances Price, Church Clerk

THE HISTORY OF HARTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

Feeling the need of a Baptist Church in the community and being led by the Spirit of God, eighteen charter members met in the home of Mr. A. P. Anderson on Wednesday night, April 5, 1938, and organized Hartland Baptist Church, with a Presbytery consisting of Rev. S. B. McCall - Chairman, Rev. J. S. Silvers - Secretary, and Deacons Claywell Burns and T. N. Hallyburton. The Charter members were: A. P. Anderson, Mrs. A. P. Anderson, Charlie Anderson, Annie Anderson Owens, Mrs. Ellis Arney, Mrs. Hazel Arney Moore, Jack Branch, Sr., A. H. Jones, Mrs. A. H. Jones, W. C. Lamberth, Rev. S. B. McCall, Mrs. S. B. McCall, Oscar B. McCall, J. C. McCall, John Watson, Mrs. John Watson, and Jessie Watson.

A building lot was purchased and the original frame structure was erected in eight days. The first meeting was held in the new Church on April 16, 1938, with 120 in Sunday School. Oscar McCall was the first clerk, Mrs. A. H. Jones, the first treasurer, and the first deacons were: W. C. Lamberth - Chairman, Jack Branch, Sr., and John Watson. The first Trustees were S. B. McCall, A. H. Jones, and Paul Wilson. The first Training Union was organized on November 11, 1945, with Oneal Owens as the director. In 1943, the pastor's salary was \$20.00 per week. The first youth meeting was May 22, 1949, and the first baptismal service in the Church was held April 9, 1950. The parsonage was built in October, 1955.

The Church was again debt free in April, 1966, at which time a building fund was begun for a new educational building. The Constitution and By-Laws for the Church were adopted on September 30, 1970. Our present Wurlitzer Organ was purchased on November 15, 1970, at a cost of \$1,030.00 less trade-in of the old organ. Approximately six acres of land located behind the Church property was purchased in June, 1970, from the Miller heirs, and a ball-field has been provided on a portion of this property.

On February 11, 1973, we held a ground breaking ceremony to usher in our building program. On May 19, 1974, we dedicated our new building to the service of God.

On October 20, 1974, we began a Children's Worship Service in the fellowship hall of the Church. Rev. Jerry McFelea served as Youth Pastor.

Our Church has had many more years of building and remodeling. In March 1986, our Church remodeled the sanctuary. A dedication service was held upon completion of the program. In March and April of 1987, we remodeled our Sunday School rooms and hallways.

Fifty-one years ago God Blessed a small group of His Children, and He has continued pouring out His blessings throughout the years. Let us all pray that He will bestow His blessings on all His children as we serve and worship Him. Today we lift our thankful hearts to Heaven and say, "TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE."

PASTORS: 1938 - 1989

1938-1939	Rev. S. B. McCall
1939-1940	Rev. W. H. Flowers
1940-1941	Rev. L. E. Snipes
1941-1943	Rev. Lawrence Miller
1944-1945	Rev. T. E. Payne
1945-1946	Rev. H. L. Phillips
1947-1948	Rev. Lawrence Miller
1948-1949	Rev. Tom Flowe
1949-1953	Rev. Paul Wilson
1953-1957	Rev. W. J. Ramsey
1957-1961	Rev. J. J. Buckner
1961-1968	Rev. Joe Sprinkle
1968-1970	Rev. G. H. Shope, Jr.
1971-1978	Rev. B. R. Whisnant
1979-1991	Rev. David L. Giffin
1992-present	Rev. Steve Parker

Supply: Rev. Paul Wilson, Rev. Ray Davis, Rev. Jerry McFelea, Rev. T. R. Clark, Jr., Rev. L. E. Snipes, and Dr. Dale Larew.

**THE HISTORY
OF
HIBRITEN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Hibriten Baptist Church was organized in 1950 with a membership of 40. Rev. Calvin Helton served as the first pastor. Following Rev. Helton's resignation, the Rev. Herring Crisp served as pastor until Rev. Helton returned. He served until his death in 1969. In March of 1969 Rev. Fred Price became pastor.

A new educational building was erected on a tract of land beside the old block church which housed the congregation until this time. In June of 1970, construction on a new sanctuary was started. The sanctuary was built onto the educational rooms which were built the prior year. Dedication of the new building was held on June 20, 1971. The homecoming was also held on this same day.

On May 19, 1974, Rev. Price resigned as pastor. On July 14, 1974, the Rev. Douglas Cox became the pastor and remains the pastor today.

Construction of a parsonage began in January of 1984. The parsonage was completed in June of 1984. The Rev. Cox and family were the first and only occupants. The parsonage was paid for on February 15, 1990.

The church is debt free as of June 1994 with a membership of 419.

The church cemetery is located on a tract of land at Route 3, Hudson. The land was donated to the church by Rev. Calvin Helton. The cemetery is maintained by the church.

THE HISTORY OF HUDSON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On August 13, 1831, Lower Creek Baptist Church granted letters of dismission to three of her members, Reddick Freeman, Rebecca Freeman, and Kiziah Howell. The next month, on September 17, 1831, these three people, along with Hiram Clark, John Taylor, William Freeman, Jacob Grider, Elijah Craig, Polly Clark, Nellie Angley, Elizabeth Hays, Catherine Fincannon, and Nancy Cloer, organized the Gunpowder Baptist Church. The new church met in the home of Reddick Freeman (later the John Swanson home) located near Gunpowder Creek on what is now Swan Drive in Whitnel. Rev. Benjamin Beach and Rev. Thomas Craig made up the presbytery of the new church.

Some of the members of the church today are direct descendants of the charter members of Gunpowder Baptist Church. The first pastor of Gunpowder, Rev. Benjamin Beach, was the great-grandfather of Bela Beach, a deacon and choir member. Another charter member, Rebecca Freeman, was the great-grandmother of Mrs. B. Harrison (Myrtle Swanson) Barnette, a former Sunday School teacher and one of the older members of the church today.

The name of the church was changed from Gunpowder to Sardis Baptist Church at the request of the Catawba River Baptist Association in August, 1835. The name remained Sardis Baptist Church until March 13, 1955, when the name was changed to First Baptist Church. An interesting fact is that as far back as 1928, a motion was made to change the church's name from Sardis to First Baptist, but the motion died for lack of a second.

First Baptist Church has been a member of the Catawba River, Lower Creek, Lewis Fork, Taylorsville, United Baptist, Brushy Mountain, and Caldwell Baptist Associations. On July 25, 1885, the church asked the Brushy Mountain Association for a letter of dismission for the purpose of joining the Caldwell Association. In October, 1885, the church met with the Caldwell Association at its first annual meeting. The fourth annual session of Caldwell Association met at Sardis Baptist Church on August 2-5, 1888; this marked the first time the Caldwell Association meeting was held at Sardis.

The following men have served First Baptist as pastors: Benjamin Beach, Thomas Craig, Cornelius Livingston, Joseph Harrison, Philip Powell, J. B. Powell, Jacob Crouch, H. Holsclaw, Holland Craig, Ambrose Knight, G. W. Livingston, Edmund Tilley, I. Sherrill, Bedford Brown, J. T. Shell, Hiram West, Isaac Smith, C. W. Conway, C. C. Pool, J. H. West, J. S. Gwaltney, A. S. Church, John Crisp, J. R. T. Annas, I. Oxford, J. M. Harris, W. N. Cook, J. O. Fulbright, S. A. Rhyne, J. M. Shaver, B. Frank Austin, T. E. Payne, S. A. Stroup, R. D. Carroll, R. B. Burnett, H. S. Benfield, K. E. Seepe, George Westmoreland, George Williamson, James W. Herron, and Leland Stephens. The current pastor, Dr. Billy G. Rivers, began his ministry with First Baptist in November, 1982.

First Baptist Church has had two full-time ministers of Music and Education: L. Deck Taylor (1957-1974) and Donald D. Almond (1975-present). Mrs. Ben (Jo) Kincaid, Jr., served as Minister of Youth and Special Ministries from 1980 until 1984; she was succeeded in 1985 by Rev. Michael A. Isaacs, who continues to serve today.

In January, 1880, letters of dismission were granted to three men and to three women in order for them to form a church at Lovelady. On April 27, 1889, seven men and two women were dismissed by letter for the purpose of forming a church at Mt. Zion. Lakeview Mission, now known as Lakeview Baptist Church, was organized by First Baptist Church on April 1, 1956. Other churches which have gone out from First Baptist (Sardis) are Mountain Grove, Granite Falls, Harris Chapel, and Center Grove.

The first house of worship, in 1818, was a community building of logs. This log building stood until 1863, when it burned. Another house of worship was erected in 1867, followed by a frame building in 1914. The present church building, located at 345 Main Street, Hudson, was occupied for worship services in 1949, replacing the frame building which stood across the street on the northeast corner of the cemetery and which had been in use since being constructed in 1914. An educational building was added in 1963.

A Sunday School was organized in 1870. In 1919,

H. E. Austin was appointed leader of the BYPU, the predecessor of what is now the church training program. The Ladies Aid Society, now known as the Woman's Missionary Union, was organized in 1909; the Brotherhood was started in 1953. Present enrollments in church organizations are as follows: Sunday School - 620; Discipleship Training - 146; WMU - 128; Brotherhood - 72; Music - 121. There are 679 resident and 249 non-resident church members, giving a total membership of 928. A fully graded program is offered in each of the above organizations, including music. First Baptist Church also is very mission-minded, giving a total of \$116,653 to missions through the Cooperative Program and other avenues during the 1994-95 church year.

The church has been renovated and the debt was paid off for this renovation in five years.

We were given a beautiful and meaningful pipe organ in loving memory of Mr. J. Wade Kincaid.

We built a much needed children's playground and dedicated to the loving memory of Mrs. Wilma German.

"To all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are homeless and want sheltering love, to all who pray and to all who do not but ought, to all who sin and need a Saviour and to whosoever will come, this Church opens wide its doors and, in the name of Jesus the Lord, says, 'Welcome.'"

**THE HISTORY
OF
INDIAN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH**

The church building had been at its current location since 1971 and has had several pastors and different names. It was reorganized January 15, 1989 with six members. Dale Matteson was called as pastor and currently remains in that position. The church was named Indian Hills Baptist Church.

In April of 1991, the church came under the watchcare of the Caldwell Baptist Association and was accepted as a full member church in April 1992.

The church currently has 129 members, with the oldest member almost 100 years old.

The church went through a complete renovation with the cost of about \$40,000 and the debt was paid in full in July of 1993. It has the only outside heated baptistry in the association. Indian Hills also has a very active music program.

**THE HISTORY
OF
JOHNS RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH**

According to the old church minutes, John's River Baptist Church was organized in the year 1884 in the month of August. The church held services in an old school house located in the Globe community of Caldwell County, until a church house was built sometime between the years 1886 and 1890. L. L. Estes donated the logs to build the church which now still stands in the lower end of the J. C. Hayes house field.

From Old Church Minutes
August 30, 1884
Globe, North Carolina

Johns River Baptist Church was served by several pastors, beginning with the Revs. Isaac Smith, William Knight, E. M. Gragg, J. M. Payne, E. D. Crisp, J. M. Harris, D. M. Wheeler, Bob Shore, J. H. Crisp, Clyde Cornett, Burma Shore, David Gragg, Paul Wells, Kenneth Shell, Paul Braswell, Bob Laws, and present pastor Rev. Earnest Greer.

E.D. Crisp
Church Clerk

The Presbytery consisting of Elders Isaac Smith and Levi Wilson met by request of the following brethren and sisters: (Males) E. D. Crisp, R. S. Hayes, J. B. Phillips, C. L. Crisp, D. L. Hayes & W.E. Phillips; (Females) Manerva Gragg & Polly Green, and finding them orthodox in faith, pronounced them: 1) an independent body of Christ; 2) agreed to call the church Johns River; 3) proceeded to elect church clerk, which resulted in the choice of E. D. Crisp; 4) proceeded to appoint and ordain Deacons which resulted in the choice of E.D. Crisp & R.S. Hayes; 5) agreed to send a letter and delegates, consisting of E. D. Crisp, R.S. Hayes and J. B. Phillips, asking for admission into the Three Forks Baptist Association; 6) proceeded to elect a Pastor for the coming year which resulted in the choice of Elder Isaac Smith; 7) adjourned.

THE HISTORY OF KINGS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Kings Creek Baptist Church was organized in the year 1779. The exact month is unknown. The first church records were destroyed in 1860 when the home of Thomas Isbell, church clerk, burned. The oldest written records date from 1860.

While the year is well established, the early history is not. The early church was a crude log building which was shared by the community school. This log structure is said to have been located in the Dug Hill area. The church moved to its present site sometime in the nineteenth century (prior to 1860).

Over the years Kings Creek has been a member of many different associations. The earliest was probably the Mountain District. In April of 1872 Kings Creek became a part of the Brushy Mountain Association and remained a member until October 21, 1887 when membership was granted in the Caldwell County Baptist Association.

Usually the church met once a month. The services were held on Saturday. The earliest meetings consisted of sermon, business, call for complaints, and "opening the doors to receive members." The call for complaint gave members an opportunity to bring the sins and failures of neighbors to the attention of the fellowship for discipline.

In May of 1869, it was noted that each male member was to pay 25 cents a year, and the treasurer was to keep an account.

In July of 1878, the church appointed a building committee to construct a new house of worship, and sell the old one. The work was started in December 1879.

A milestone was reached the third Saturday of March in 1880. On that day, the church voted to commence a Sabbath School on the first Saturday in April. No doubt, this forerunner of our Sunday School was very different from what we do today. It was a positive step in the growth of the fellowship.

The pastor was on an annual call for about the

first one hundred and fifty years. In August 1887, the church voted to set the pastor's salary at \$35.00 a year.

In the early part of the twentieth century, Kings Creek began to have services twice a month. In 1908, a pastor was called to serve Kings Creek and Lower Creek. He was to serve two weeks at each church. The first pastor to serve the two churches in this manner was Reverend J. G. Benfield.

In May of 1911, work was authorized on a cement baptistery. The site was purchased for ten dollars and work was completed by August. The baptistery was about three-tenths of a mile north of the church and was filled with water from a nearby creek.

In March of 1928, the trustees were instructed to investigate the cost of construction of a new church. The church voted to construct a new building, and the first services in the new church were held in February of 1929.

The marvel of electricity came to Kings Creek Baptist Church in July of 1937, at a cost of \$60.54.

Reverend Grant Miller was called to the church in 1943 and was asked to live in the community. The first pastorium was built in 1946. Reverend R. L. Miller was called to be the first full time pastor in 1949. It was during this pastorate that Stella Austin made her long journey to Nigeria.

The three story educational building that is used today was erected in 1954 and 1955.

In 1973, during Rev. M. E. Patton's pastorate, a committee was elected by the fellowship for the purpose of a new construction. A new house of worship and a new pastorium were to be built. Work was completed in February of 1975 on the pastorium. The first services were held in the new house of worship in November of 1975.

Presently Rev. Bob Lowman, Jr. serves as pastor. He began his pastorate August 20, 1989.

Over the two hundred and twelve years of the church's history, Kings Creek has had at least six

houses of worship and one educational building.

The church at Kings Creek has been blessed and used of God for two hundred and twelve years. Little did that small band of settlers know of the world that we would live in in 1991, but we owe them our gratitude for having a vision to establish in this place for the work of the Lord.

THE HISTORY OF LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Lakeview Baptist Church, of US 321-A, actually goes back prior to its organizational date of October 25, 1959. It was begun as a mission effort of Hudson First Baptist Church, and was served during its mission status by Rev. Marvin Saunders and Rev. C.R. McFelea. The organization into a church followed in 1959, and Rev. W.R. Moss became the church's first pastor. Other ministers who have served at Lakeview include: Rev. W. Howard Shores, Rev. Robert Brown, Rev. Ralph Staton, Rev. Wallace Hamby, Rev. Jack Church, Rev. Mike Barlowe, and Dr. W. Howard Hawkins. Of the 36 charter members, one is still active in the work of the church.

During the first several years, the congregation worshipped in a wooden building near the present site. These facilities were used until the basement part was entered December 25, 1960 which contained a temporary sanctuary and educational space. The finishing touches to the new sanctuary - 40 x 60 feet in size with a seating capacity of 200 - brought to end a drive which began shortly after Wallace Hamby became pastor of the church, September 13, 1964. It was during the following January that a building fund drive was undertaken and resulted in \$6,000.00 being raised by the membership the first year. Less than a year later, construction began on this phase of the church's growth which included the erection of a new brick sanctuary, pastor's study, and two other rooms. With this addition of the new sanctuary, plans called for the conversion of the basement sanctuary into additional classrooms. The congregation held special dedication services at the new sanctuary August 6, 1967. The church then had 93 members. A ceremony was held at Lakeview October 26, 1973 for the purpose of burning the note and clearing the indebtedness on the church building. Six charter members were present.

The educational building was built in two stages. In November of 1976, plans for the educational building were presented to the church for acceptance. The key to the first building was presented to the church by the Board of Trustees on August 7, 1977. At a later time, Rev. James Lambert, interim pastor, dedicated the new building. A second stage was later completed making the building 100 x 38 feet. An additional tract of approximately two acres was purchased in 1985, and in 1988 the church parking lot was paved.

When Dr. W. Howard Hawkins served his first pastorate in 1968, he became the church's first full-time pastor. He resigned in 1971 for a call to the Trinity Baptist church in Pulaski, Virginia. In 1978, Dr. Hawkins was called as pastor a second time, and he is presently serving as our pastor.

THE HISTORY OF LENOIR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lenoir Baptist Church, later to become First Baptist Church was organized on August 18, 1889, and consisted of eighteen charter members. Rev. W. A. Poole was the first pastor, serving only two months. He was followed by Rev. I. W. Thomas, who deserves much credit for building the foundation on which this church was built. The original church property was located at West Harper Avenue and Church Street. The lot for the first building cost \$100, and the church was only a hull of a house, no ceiling, no seats except planks laid on blocks, no pulpit, no altar table, no Bible, no song books, and no bell. The churches of the Caldwell Baptist Association helped ceil and seat the house, and in September 1890 the Association met in this church for the first time. A Sunday School was organized in 1890. During the nine years of Rev. Thomas' pastorate, the membership increased from eighteen to one hundred, and the church was free of debt.

From 1899 until 1922, there were nine pastors during which time the church was remodeled, and an annex built before constructing a new building on the original site. A Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1899. During the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Hoyle, a parsonage was bought for \$3,500, and the balance of the debt on the church was paid. The building was dedicated on August 29, 1920, at which time the membership was three hundred nineteen.

Under the leadership of Dr. W. C. Tyree who became pastor in 1922, the church purchased the old graded school property on North Main Street which is the present site for \$15,000, and in July 1923 the former church property was sold to the Reformed Church for \$12,500. The new building, completed in 1925, and the property cost more than \$150,000. During the time of construction, the congregation of four hundred members met in the Court House. On December 20, 1928, Dr. Tyree was killed in an automobile accident.

On June 1, 1929, Rev. Richard Hardaway became pastor of the church, with one of his aims being to see the church free from the remaining \$52,000 debt of the new building. Once or twice a year Rev. Hardaway would not have the regular church service, but would shut the door, bring out a

blackboard and set it up in the front. Then each person would stand up and call out a pledge to the building fund with the amount being written on the blackboard by Rev. Hardaway. When Rev. Hardaway resigned in 1939, he left the church debt free for the third time in the church's history.

Dr. Oscar R. Mangum came as pastor in January 1940. In 1941, the sanctuary was completely remodeled with a Pilcher three manual organ being installed. A house, the O. R. Mangum Lodge, was built at Ridgecrest in 1948, for use by the church while participating in the Ridgecrest programs. The Love Fund was started during Dr. Mangum's pastorate and has continued to play an important role in helping underprivileged persons. Dr. Mangum conducted classes for the preachers of the county and established a Minister's Library in this church. The church spire was rebuilt, and in 1948 chimes were added to the organ. In August 1945, Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Blankenship went to Brazil to serve as missionaries for First Baptist Church. They came home from the mission field in 1948, because of Mrs. Blankenship's health. Dr. Mangum retired from the active ministry on June 27, 1948 after suffering a heart attack.

On July 1, 1948, Rev. A. E. Blankenship became pastor. In 1948, the church sent Miss Miriam McCullough as missionary to Mexico. Also, in the same year the church bought a new house on Kentwood Street as the parsonage.

The Rev. M. O. Owens, Jr. began his ministry in 1950 and served nine and one-half years. The present parsonage on Highland Avenue was built in 1951, with the chapel and education building being completed in 1958. Harrisburg Baptist Chapel was begun as a mission of First Baptist Church on January 30, 1955.

January 1, 1961, Rev. W. Emory Trainham, Jr. became First Baptist Church's sixteenth pastor, serving until 1967. The new Harrisburg Chapel building was completed and dedicated June 4, 1961. In November 1963, a new fifty bell carillon was installed to perpetuate the one given in 1946. Mr. Trainham helped establish the Community Holy Week services and began First Baptist's radio ministry "The Church at Worship" in 1962.

The Rev. Fred D. Barnes began his ministry as Senior Minister in July 1968. On March 31, 1968, the debt on the chapel and education building was retired. A major total renovation of the sanctuary building was completed in 1975, with \$650,000 indebtedness being paid off December 31, 1980.

This was the second debt-free celebration in thirteen years, and the fifth time in the history of the church that it has gone through a significant building program and has paid off a large indebtedness. With a dedication service on April 1, 1979, Harrisburg Chapel became a church to be known as Harrisburg Baptist Church. During Rev. Barnes ministry, the church supported a number of groups and programs which minister to various community needs including the Lenoir Ministerial Association, Yokefellow, The Soup Kitchen, and numerous special music programs. After 19 years as Senior Minister, Rev. Barnes resigned in December 1987.

Dr. David B. Smith began his pastorate in January 1989, with the church in the midst of a year-long centennial celebration. On August 20, 1989, First Baptist Church, Lenoir, officially marked its 100th year of ministry to Lenoir and Caldwell County with thanks to God; for its past and a renewed commitment to His service in the years ahead. During 1992-93 a major renovation was accomplished throughout the church.

**THE HISTORY
OF
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Liberty Baptist Church opened up on May 1951. At that time 20 members joined the church. The pastor then was Rev. Ezekiel Barnes. Since 1951, we have had ten pastors. At present, we have 87 members. Our pastor is Rev. Dewey Bristol

Pauline Shew
Church Clerk

**THE HISTORY
OF
LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Livingston Memorial Baptist Church was organized June 13, 1956, with meetings being held in the home of Mr. W. Hill Livingston. The presbytery consisted of Alexander Doby, Ed O. Miller, Thurston Barnes, Edd L. Doby, and Marvin W. Shepherd.

There were eight charter members: Mr. & Mrs. George W. Auton, Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Colvard, Mrs. Stella Jolley, Mr. W. Hill Livingston, Mr. Charlie Auton, and Mr. Thomas Hatton; coming from Kings Creek, Grandin and Little Rock Baptist Churches.

Mr. W. Hill Livingston donated the land for the church, and in a business meeting held September 15, 1956, a building committee was appointed. From money donated and collections being taken, the building committee was given the go-ahead on the church building. The first service was held in the new church December 2, 1956.

In the same business session held September 15, 1956, the church appointed Mr. & Mrs. George W. Auton, Mr. Charles Jolley, and Mrs. Ella Colvard as a committee to go to the annual meeting of the Caldwell Baptist Association, to present Livingston Memorial Baptist Church for membership in the association.

The first deacons of the church were: Thomas Hatton, R.E. Colvard, and Clay Brookshire.

The following ministers have served the church as pastors: Thurston Barnes, Major Edwards, Donald B. McCaleh, Morris Tuttle, L. Ray Davis, Dennis Richards, Jerry Smith, Joe Angle, and Frank Edward Greene.

Donations were given and with monies raised, the parsonage was built in the fall of 1962 during the pastorship of Rev. Major Edwards.

With the membership growing and more space needed, on June 8, 1969, the church approved enlarging the auditorium and front vestibule and more Sunday School classrooms downstairs and new restrooms.

In a business meeting held February 14, 1971, the church approved the purchase of 3.9 acres of land adjacent to the church property for a cemetery.

During the following years, new furnishings and carpet for the auditorium have been dedicated, parking lot paved, fellowship building erected, colored plexiglass windows put in the auditorium, and many other improvements made.

The church is known as a praying and giving church. We have always tried to be mission-minded with a percentage of offerings and tithes going to the Cooperative Program and Caldwell Baptist missions, as well as love gifts to those in need around the area.

According to the records, the church has ordained three men to the Gospel Ministry: Revs. Edward Phillips, Jerry D. Smith, and William Kanupp.

The church and its missions organizations are active and dedicated to helping spread the Gospel in this community, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Mrs. Pearline Hatton
Church Clerk

THE HISTORY OF LOWER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Lower Creek Baptist Church was organized on March 4, 1826. The eleven charter members were: Isaac Sherrill, James Day, James Critchlow, Jeremiah Clarke, Mary Sherrill, Lucy Day, Archy Kirby, Nancy Goldsby, Martha Bailey, Sarah N. Wainscott, and Mary Ann Critchlow.

These members met in a small one room log house of worship and conducted a business meeting and worshipped together for the first time. The log house was given by George Powell, Sr. The church was recorded as being a Burke County church as Caldwell County would not be formed out of Burke County until 1841. In that first year, the church increased from the eleven charter members to twenty-eight by years end. Dorcus Curby was the first member received by letter. Isaac Sherrill was the first lay elder and clerk. Phillip Powell was the first person received by "experience." In that first year, every male member was asked to put into the hand of Jeremiah Clarke, the first deacon, twenty-five cents to defray the charges of the church. This would have totaled \$1.50.

The rules of the church were quite strict with certain "sins" spelled out as warranting dismissal. If a complaint was brought against a member they had to appear before the congregation. If cleared, they would remain a member in good standing. If not, they were excluded. There is evidence that a number of these people were often taken back into the fold later on.

It is interesting to note that the church took in black slaves from the very beginning, the first being "Harry of colour", property of Nancy Goldsby.

In 1847, a frame building was erected to replace the original log house as the house of worship. By the end of the Civil War in 1865, the church had a total of 72 members and by 1873, membership had grown to 197.

In 1904, a main auditorium was erected of brick with an addition of 30 rooms added in 1924. This building boasted electric lights, a hot air furnace, and a choir loft behind the pulpit. A fire completely destroyed the building in April, 1942. A new building was completed in 1943, and with an educational wing built and dedicated on July 4, 1962, this is the facility one sees today. A number of churches in the Lenoir area trace their roots back to the founding sponsorship of Lower Creek Baptist Church.

The first Pastor of Lower Creek Baptist Church was Benjamin Beach who served for eleven years. He was followed by Phillip Powell, William Goforth, John Powell, Moses Smith, James Reid, G. Swain, H. Holtsclaw, J. B. Pool, W. A. Pool, I. W. Thomas, J. M. Shaver, J. G. Benfield, G. C. Teague, E. G. Caldwell, W. R. Barnes, W. W. Lynes, Zeb Caudle, W. W. Jones, Billy Rivers, William Snyder, Horace Story, and Joel Sellers. The current pastor is Phillip Frady.

Lower Creek Baptist Church continues to be active in ministry, worship, music, Christian education, evangelism, missions, and benevolence, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, and the Caldwell Baptist Association. Lower Creek Baptist Church has and continues to provide a strong, well-balanced and scriptural ministry in the Lenoir community. We have and continue to keep pace with the changing times to meet the spiritual needs of our surrounding area with the unchanging Good News of God's Love in Jesus Christ.

**THE HISTORY
OF
MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Meadowbrook Baptist Church began in 1960 as College Avenue Mission. An old frame house, along with its furnishings, on Wakefield Drive, was leased from Grace Bible Church and purchased a short time later. The house was too small to meet the immediate needs so funds were raised and another room was added. Services began on October 1, 1960 with sixty-nine enrolled the first Sunday. The services were led by lay members of College Avenue Church. The first baptismal service was held on January 1, 1961.

In June, 1961 the Rev. Robert Chester became the first pastor and the church began to slowly grow.

The present church site was purchased in 1964. Later adjoining property was bought to give us a total of seven acres.

The mission became a church on May 2, 1965 and took its present name. There were fifty-nine charter members. Three months later the first building program began.

The first part of the building included seventeen classrooms, office space, and a temporary sanctuary, which is now the fellowship hall. Construction was completed in July, 1967. At this time there were about one hundred and ninety-two members. After moving into the new building, the old house was sold.

The next building program began in September, 1982 and was completed in October, 1983. This addition included more classrooms and a much larger office space.

The church soon outgrew this space, so in August, 1986 construction began again. This addition gave us a large new sanctuary which will seat over five hundred and several more classrooms. This building was completed in June, 1987. At present we have twenty-four classrooms, a library and resource center. Our current membership is 506.

Pastors of Meadowbrook Baptist Church:

Rev. Robert Chester(June, 1961 - March, 1963)
Rev. H. H. McManus(April, 1963 - April, 1968)
Rev. Clifton Tuttle(May, 1968 - March, 1980)
Rev. Forest Blankenship, Interim
(March, 1981 - Sept., 1981)
Rev. Donnie Solesbee
(Sept., 1981 - Sept., 1988)
Rev. Jimmy Lambert, Interim
(October, 1988 - 1990)
Rev. Gary Hayes (1990 - 1992)
Rev. Roger Beck (1993 - Present)

THE HISTORY OF MILLER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Miller Hill Baptist Church had its origin in an abandoned school house on the street now called Fairview Drive where interested residents of the Miller Hill Community opened the doors on Sunday Mornings for "Church School", which quickly became known as Sunday School. Soon, ministers with free time were called upon to hold worship services following the Sunday School hour. Several local ministers participated in this and as interest increased, it became evident that the community wanted and needed a place of worship.

Under the leadership of Rev. J.M. Fox and Rev. Charlie F. Cook, the Miller Hill Baptist Church was established, and continued to meet in the old school building until the building was sold by the county.

On August 15, 1935, the church bought seven lots, #17-24 on Fairview Drive, the deed being made to Rev. C.C. Mecum and Thomas Gibson, Trustees of the church. Shortly after, a frame structure was erected. The same year, the church became a member of the Caldwell Baptist Association. Rev. C.C. Mecum of Whitnel was called as the first pastor. The membership was 35. Some of the charter members were: Thomas and Clemmie Gibson, Otis and Metta Mikeal, Mrs. Cordia Gilbert, I.J. and Julia Keaton, John and Bessie Hart, Rev. and Mrs. C.C. Mecum, Virgil and Eara Greene, Doris (Dot) Greene, Audey Greene, John and Ella Price, Minnie Price, Drew and Lillie Adkins, and Flora Mae Gibson.

On December 16, 1951, the upper frame portion of the building was almost completely destroyed by fire. Under the leadership and encouragement of the pastor, Rev. D.L. Bumgarner, the members continued to hold services in the basement until another building could be erected. Membership at that time was 200.

Soon after the disaster, members voted to build a new church building on land bought from Rev. Sam Silver and some lots donated by C.R. Leonard. The congregation occupied the new brick building in August 1952. Later the church bought six additional lots from C.R. Leonard in November 1958. A parsonage was purchased in November 1959. In September 1968, C.R. and

Lillie Leonard donated to the church 1 ½ acres joining the church property.

On August 28, 1958, the church voted to begin the deacon rotation system.

On June 30, 1963, Rev. Fred Morris was called as pastor to replace Rev. H.I. Johnson who had resigned effective March 24, 1963.

On October 11, 1964, Bernice Mikeal was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel by Miller Hill Baptist Church.

In 1971, quite a few improvements were made in the church auditorium, with new lights, new baptistry, air conditioning, etc. Also, other parts of the building were carpeted, new windows put in the basement, several rooms were paneled, and a room for a library was provided. In 1971, there were 139 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 92. Pastor was Rev. Edward Bennett.

In 1974, renovations were made on the cottage behind the church. The outside was bricked and storm windows were installed; the inside was paneled and cabinets were built and the building was used as a church fellowship hall.

In October 1974, Rev. Edward Bennett resigned because of illness. In November, a pulpit committee consisting of John Beach, Clarence Prestwood, Kenneth Barlow, Sue Smith, and Cecil Smith was appointed. Rev. James Lambert of Morganton was called as interim pastor.

In February 1975, the church voted to call Rev. Larry J. Estes as pastor effective the first Sunday in April 1975. On March 9, 1975, he was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel at his home church, Central Baptist Church, Whitnel, N. C. with Miller Hill Baptist Church participating. Due to Rev. Lambert becoming ill, Rev. Estes began his pastorate earlier than planned and preached his first sermon as pastor of the church on Wednesday, March 26, 1975.

In June 1876, the church voted to start looking into the need for additional Sunday school

classroom space and fellowship and storage space. On December 19, 1976, the church voted unanimously to erect a new educational building. The contract was awarded to Barlow Construction Company, Hickory, N. C.

On July 4, 1976, a special day was observed at the church in honor of our nation's 200th birthday. People came dressed in "ole-timey" clothes and enjoyed lunch on the grounds after the morning worship service. At 2:00, members took part in the national bell-ringing, with different people ringing the bell continuously for 30 minutes as a special salute to our country.

On February 16, 1977, the church voted to borrow \$100,000.00 from Mutual Savings & Loan for the construction of the new educational building, which would be a two-story addition consisting of 13 classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and storage area. Provisions were made for adding a third story to the building when needed. On Sunday, September 11, a dedication service for the educational building was held. It was occupied on the first Sunday in October 1977.

On May 4, 1977, the church voted to hire Sue Smith as its first part-time staff member to do office work.

On June 21, 1980, Mr. Rick Sain of Carswell Memorial Baptist Church, Vale, N. C. was hired as a part-time summer worker.

Lillie Leonard Day was observed on August 10, 1980. Brass offering plates were given in honor of Mrs. Leonard with an inscription on the plates commemorating the event.

On December 14, 1980, Rev. Estes resigned as pastor of Miller Hill Baptist Church to accept the pastorate at another church. Rev. Clifton Tuttle served as interim pastor and a pulpit committee consisting of Cecil Smith, Thirman Whitener, Jim Craig, Bobbi Watson, and Pansy Scruggs were appointed. On February 15, 1981, Rev. Michael White was called as pastor and served until February 1983.

On March 4, 1981, the deacon committee recommended that the church appoint a committee to formulate a constitution and by-laws for the church. On July 4, 1981, the new constitution and by-laws were approved.

The church voted on June 10, 1981, to establish a church council. This council would consist of the directors of Sunday School, Church Training, WMU, Brotherhood, Music, the Librarian, and the Chairman of Deacons. This council would meet monthly to coordinate the programs of the church, set priorities, set long-range goals, and serve as the budget committee.

On April 24, 1983, the church voted to license Allan Barlow for the ministry. Allan was called from our congregation to serve as youth minister at Double Springs Baptist Church in Shelby, while finishing his education at Gardner-Webb College.

On Sunday, August 7, 1983, Rev. Frank Denning began his pastorate at Miller Hill. He and his family came from Boylston Baptist Church, Horse Shoe, N.C., where he served as minister of youth and music. On September 17, 1983, Rev. Denning graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and was ordained by our church on September 18, 1985.

A group of men and ladies from our church went to Mataoka, West Virginia on a mission project on July 26, 1984. While there, the men did construction work at Mataoka Baptist Church, while the women led in Backyard Bible Clubs in the community.

In September, 1984, the WMU initiated plans to renovate the cottage behind the church into an apartment like building to house missionaries who periodically came into our area and also out-of-town revival speakers. A dedication service for the renovated cottage was held on March 3, 1985.

In October, 1984, a homebound ministry was begun with Tony and Pansy Scruggs as leaders.

On March 10, 1985, our first "Mission Cottage" guests were Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Bragg who were in Caldwell County for the World Missions Conference held March 10-17. Our church, along with Hudson First, Clark's Chapel, and Fleming's Chapel served as hosts to the Braggs during the conference.

During the week of the World Missions conference, the entire Caldwell Baptist Association was saddened by the sudden death of the Associational Director of Missions, Rev. Worth Braswell. Rev. Braswell had served as Director of Mission in the Caldwell Association since February

1981, and his dedication and love for missions will always be remembered.

In May 1985, Miller Hill Baptist Church was assigned a summer worker through application to the Baptist State Convention. On June 1, Miss Katrina Shields, a student at Appalachian State University and a member of the Baptist Student Union, began her 10-week assignment with Miller Hill Baptist Church.

In January 1986, the Department of Transportation purchased land and right of way for the construction of the Southwest Loop Project.

In April 1986, the loan for the educational building was paid in full. June 1986, Tammy White, a member of Crestview Baptist Church, became our summer worker. Tammy came back April 1987 to work a second year.

In April 1986, the church helped sponsor Angie Farmer on a mission trip to Togo, West Africa. Another mission trip sponsored by the church was to help Karen Hall go to the Bahamas in April 1989.

May 1986, Rev. Frank Denning resigned to accept a pastorate at another church. Rev. James Lambert served as interim pastor until December 1986.

A pastor selection committee was formed with Camuel Houk, Tony Scruggs, Pansy Scruggs, Jim Craig, and Paula Blankenship serving as committee members.

In June 1986, the church voted to install a new sound system in the church. This system was upgraded in May 1987 by buying new recording equipment to record the pastor's sermons and special services. This would enable the homebound to have access and enjoy these services also. In August 1988, ten head sets were purchased to aid the hearing-impaired during the church services.

August 17, 1986, the church voted to sell the parsonage and provide a housing allowance in lieu of parsonage housing. The church also voted to purchase a van to provide transportation for outreach missions.

January 1987, John Demaura, who was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel from our congregation

April 5, 1987, was called to be pastor of Nelson's Chapel Baptist Church.

On February 2, 1987, the church voted to call Rev. David Buchanan as pastor effective April 12, 1987.

In October 1989, Jan Powell was approved to be the church secretary.

In October 1989, Rev. Buchanan resigned as pastor. Rev. L.J. Culler was approved as interim pastor November 5, 1989.

On October 22, 1989, a pulpit committee was approved with the following members: Charles Puett, Cecil Smith, Sue Smith, Gene Bryson, Frances Bryson, and Bobbi Watson.

In December 1989, the church bought a wheelchair for members use when needed. Mr. Frank Jones was the first member to use the wheelchair.

In April 1990, Rev. Garland Higgins was called as pastor of Miller Hill.

June 1990, Yvonne Teague, church pianist, also served as summer youth worker for the church.

In May 1990, the church parking lot was repaved and enlarged to include the field directly behind the church for additional parking.

In January 1991, a message center was installed with post office boxes provided for each family in the church. The boxes are used for special messages during the year and provide a special service during the Christmas season when special stamps are sold at 10¢ a piece to raise money toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

In March 1991, the church installed new carpet and padded seats on all pews in the sanctuary.

In August 1991, Janet Lawrence was hired as the church secretary.

In January 1992, the church voted to change the monthly business from the first Wednesday to the second Wednesday of the month beginning with the May 1992 meeting.

On June 17, 1992, the church voted to purchase a 30-passenger bus for church use and outreach missions.

On September 19, 1993, the "Saints Alive" Senior Citizen Group of Miller Hill presented the drama, "Don't Hang Up!" This drama was also presented by request to several other churches in the area and enjoyed by everyone who saw it.

At the end of September 1993, Rev. Garland Higgins was semi-retired due to a serious illness. Rev. James Lambert once again became our interim pastor.

In January 1994, the land beside the church was purchased. The loan for the church bus was paid in full due mainly to a special offering which was taken the first Sunday in February which raised \$5,000.00 toward the pay off of the loan.

Looking back over the years of our church history, we can never capture on paper all the uplifting moments of joy, such as seeing a friend accept Christ as his Savior or watching our children grow up in church, and accept their places of responsibility there.

We are eternally grateful for those who have earnestly prayed and given of their time and endless efforts to keep our church in the will of God. As we approach a new year in the history of Miller Hill Baptist Church, we must stop and give thanks to God for all the blessing He has bestowed upon us, and then move forward with an attitude of love and willingness to serve for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God.

**THE HISTORY
OF
MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Center Grove Baptist Church Mission was organized in June, 1959 in a dwelling house, near the present church. On July 2, 1961 the mission had its first service in their new building (now Mount Carmel Baptist Church). The new building consisted of an assembly and nine classrooms.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church was started June 7, 1959 as a Sunday School. It first met in a small rented house, located on Route 1, Hudson, N. C.

On October 18, 1959, the church purchased 1 1/2 acres of land from Marcus Deal to build the church.

The first training union was October 6, 1963. Pews were purchased May 22, 1965. A well was dug and completed October 1963. In 1966, a piano was purchased. The first church budget was set up 1965.

Lanny Elmore was the first pastor at Mount Carmel. The first Sunday School superintendent was Floyd Bumgarner. The church secretary was Lonabelle Cline, and the choir director was Brenda Kirby. First person buried in the church yard was Avery Helton, December 1, 1982.

The following is the recommendation of the Mission Committee of Center Grove Baptist Church; for a Sunday School which grew into Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT: "THE MISSION COMMITTEE ARE: Pete Lail, Fred Mitcham, Lloyd Holman, Carl Bowman, and Tula Bumgarner. "The following are recommended by the committee to be workers at the Mission: Song Director, Lloyd Bumgarner; Intermediate, Tula Bumgarner; Young People, Tom Calloway; and Adult, Pete Lail. The fee for the building is \$12.50 per month."

After having three meetings, the committee requests that the women of the church should clean the building and the men of the church were to help. The brotherhood was to clean the outside, cut the grass, and trim the trees.

Also the committee requested that the Mission begin June 7, 1959, as Sunday School Mission with preaching starting as soon as convenient; that the light bulbs, meter charging, cleaning up, expense for revival, and 100 chairs be procured as soon as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mission Committee:
Pete Lail
Carl Bowman
Fred Mitcham
Tula Bumgarner
Lloyd Holman

Source: History of Caldwell County (pg. 172)

THE HISTORY OF MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Mount Zion was organized on May 4, 1889 at the fork of the "Lenoir" and Cahah Mountain Roads. The original nine members had been granted a letter of dismission from Sardis Baptist Church (now First Baptist, Hudson) on April 27, 1889 to organize a new church. At the first meeting, Rev. D. W. Conway was elected as Mount Zion's first pastor, and S. H. Powell was the first church clerk. D. Lafayette Miller and A. P. Harris were chosen to superintend a Sunday School for the church. J. a. Turnmire and W. A. Annas were ordained as deacons for the new church.

Shortly after the organizational meeting, a frame building was erected for the church. The building was across the street from the buildings Mount Zion uses today.

Mount Zion was active in the Caldwell Baptist Association from the beginning. J. A. Turnmire and M. E. Miller were sent to the Associational Meeting in the Globe in the fall of 1889.

By August 1894, Mount Zion had 36 members. In 1905, ten feet was added to the church building. A collection taken for the addition amounted to four hundred feet of lumber, and \$1.50 worth of nails according to the church minutes.

In February 1912, 12 members of Mount Zion were dismissed to organize a church at Harris Chapel.

Mount Zion's first brick building was built in 1928 while Rev. S. B. McCall was pastor. This building was used by Mount Zion until 1987 when it was destroyed to make room for the new Education and Administration building. By 1928, Mount Zion had 155 members, and a Sunday School enrollment of 128. Total receipts for the year were \$275.63, and ten baptisms were recorded.

In the early years, pastors were called annually. In 1945, during Rev. Paul Hester's ministry, the church voted to change to an indefinite call. Rev. Hester was also the church's first full-time pastor. He served from 1943 to 1953, and the sanctuary building was built during his ministry. When he left Mount Zion, the church had 558 members.

Rev. Paul Hopkins came to Mount Zion in 1954. Under his leadership, the parsonage was built, a mission Sunday School was established, a building built for the mission, and an education building for the children's departments was built. The church budget grew from \$16,000 to \$43,000 under his leadership.

In 1964, Rev. Mark Owens was called as pastor. John Thompson, our first full-time minister of music came to Mount Zion in 1966. The kindergarten was formed in 1966 with space for 30 children from 8:30 to 11:30 each school day. A house was built in 1966-1967 as a home for our minister of music. Also, in 1967, a mission was organized into a church, Sunrise Baptist Church.

Rev. Cecil O. Sewell, Sr. was pastor from 1968 to May 1971. Cecil Baker was minister of music during 1968 to 1969. Roland Brown became minister of music in 1970, and he took the youth choir on a 2,500 mile tour into five states in August 1970.

Dr. M. Dale Larew was called as pastor in 1971, and Herbert Gray was called as Minister of Music in 1972. Under their leadership Mount Zion enjoyed an increase in attendance and enthusiasm. Records for Sunday School attendance were broken when 624 attended on March 18, 1973. The bus ministry was at its peak with as many as 266 riders each day during Vacation Bible School.

In 1977, Rev. Lamar Wakefield was called as Mount Zion's pastor. During his ministry, the Baptist Men sent two teams to work in West Virginia helping to build churches. In 1981, our team roofed a building in Hedgesville, and in 1982, they bricked the same building. Mount Zion began to plan to build again to meet our increased needs; for education and Sanctuary space. Challenge to Build, a program to raise funds for building was begun in 1985.

David Hutchins was called as minister of music and youth at Mount Zion in 1981. Under his leadership, the youth choir grew to more than 50 members, and were able to go on tour several summers.

Mount Zion has a rich heritage of leadership by Godly men, and is especially thankful for her current pastor, Glenn R. Walker, called in 1986 and the Minister of Music and Youth, Rev. Steve Crouse, called in 1987. Under their guidance, Mount Zion completed a new Education and Administration Building in 1988, and is looking forward to building a new sanctuary. Church members are committed to continue to give sacrificially to the building fund and to see that our building needs are met.

Rev. Walker went to Brazil last year with other pastors from the Caldwell Baptist Association as part of the association's partnership with the Osasco Baptist Association in São Paulo, Brazil. Rev. Crouse and two church members Tommy Carpenter and Phil Turnmire are planning to go to Brazil in August, 1989.

The youth of Mount Zion will be going to Myrtle Beach this summer on a mission trip and are actively involved in discipleship training and planning for the trip.

Mount Zion's kindergarten is now a Day Care providing programs for preschoolers and school age children.

As Mount Zion celebrates 100 years of ministry in the Sawmills area she is thankful for the leadership of so many dedicated pastors and staff, and the continued commitment of the many members of Mount Zion. The recognition of more than 60 people who have been members for 50 years or more emphasizes the commitment, and love for God that makes Mount Zion great.

Mount Zion has chosen as a statement of purpose, "Knowing God's Love....and Sharing It!" Mount Zion members are looking forward to growing together as they learn more about God's love, and looking forward to continuing to share His love as they begin a new century of service.

Donna J. Miller

THE HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Mountain Grove Baptist Church had its beginning in April of 1884 when a presbytery composed of Elders D.W. Conway and E.A. Poe and Deacon J.M. Harris met with a small group of people desiring to become a local church. The name Mountain Grove was chosen, and D.W. Conway was elected the moderator and W.D. Goble as church clerk. The church has had thirty-two pastors in these 109 years with D.W. Conway becoming the first pastor. The present pastor is Dr. H. Clinton Black who came November 1, 1986.

Very little is known about the first place of worship. It is believed to have been a log building, but the exact location is not known. The second building was a frame structure on the site of the present cemetery and was erected in or about 1905. It was only one room and curtains were drawn to provide spaces for Sunday School classes. A small brick building was constructed in 1936 on a spot behind where the present sanctuary now stands. It had a few rooms in the basement area for Sunday School classes.

During the pastorate of Rev. LeRoy Thomas the present sanctuary and educational unit was constructed, and in 1962 an annex for the preschool and children's departments was added. A multipurpose building for fellowship and recreational activities was completed in 1979 under the leadership of Pastor Thomas J. Lomax. Due to growth in attendance, the sanctuary was enlarged to double the seating space in 1989, and two worship services are held each Sunday morning. Construction will begin about 1996 on the first phase of a two phase program. The first unit will be a new 2,000 seat worship center with additional educational space, followed later with the construction of a family life center.

Sunday School was started in April of 1885 and now has an enrolment of 1379. Training activities began with a Baptist Young People's Union in 1926 and has continued through the several name changes. Discipleship Training now has an enrolment of 156. Church membership is almost 1700, growing from a membership of 770 at the beginning of Dr. Black's pastorate seven years ago. The church has a Woman's Missionary Union, organized in 1941, with units also for youth and children. Brotherhood is active with Royal Ambassadors for the boys, and a seasonal recreational program for all interested youth. Mountain Grove has had a paid music staff since 1965 when Mack Fletcher became the first Music/Education Director. Rev. Rickey Baxley is now the Minister of Music having come in June of 1995. Rev. Jerry Bentley is the Minister of Education and Outreach. Other staff members are: Dr. Willard L. Jenkins, Minister of Pastoral Care, Mr. Ken Atkins, Minister of Youth, Mrs. Anna Dean Smith, Minister of Children and Senior Adults, Mrs. Jan Chester, Administrative Assistance, Mr. Jonathan Calloway, Associate Minister of Music, Ms. Jean Shenton, Mrs. Linda Black and Mrs. Cindy Herman, Secretaries.

**THE HISTORY
OF
MOUNTAIN VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**

The church was organized June 13, 1948 as Beautiful Baptist Church. Twenty charter members and six candidates for baptism made up the body of the church. It had begun with a year or more of prayer meetings in the Setzers Gap Community. Henry E. Colvard was called as first pastor. Rev. A.E. Blankenship of Lenoir First and M.W. Stallings of Whitnel Baptist Church officiated, for the Caldwell Baptist Association Committee. The people met in open door services while the church was being built. It moved into the sanctuary in early 1949. Early deacons were: Elmer Philyaw, Clarence Gurley, Paul Hall, Stanford Wilson, and Cecil Chester.

The church changed its name to Mountain View Baptist Church on July 24, 1950. The church sits on a hill approximately 6 miles on old Collettsville Road in the Setzers Gap Community.

Many pastors have served, all of them bivocational. Among those are: Henry Colvard, Luther Hass, Ira Walker, Bill Turnmire, Terrill Crump, Phillip Martin, Everette Bryant, A.J. Singley, and our present pastor, J.B. Crouse who came to us in April 1990.

Many improvements were made to the original sanctuary over the years such as carpet, padded benches, central heat and air, parking lot paved and landscaping, etc.

In 1993, a fellowship hall was built at the rear of our sanctuary. We have handicap restrooms, a dining hall and kitchen, and we finished paving our rear parking area.

Projects completed during 1994-1995 were: new lights in sanctuary, stained glass windows, sound system, lighting for special programs, new sign at highway with brick columns, alarm system, and emergency lighting.

God has blessed us under the leadership of Brother Crouse. Our present membership is around 65 with 47 enrolled in Sunday School. Deacons are: Doug Clark, Clyde Whittington, Tommy Coffey, and an able staff of general officers. To all those who have contributed to our fellowship and church growth, we give thanks to God.

THE HISTORY OF MULBERRY BAPTIST CHURCH

Mulberry Baptist Church is located in the Mulberry Community in the northwest section of Caldwell County. Mulberry, located in a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains, is one of the oldest communities in the county. Settlers arrived in the area in the early 1700s.

The earliest records of Mulberry Church were found in the Yadkin Baptist Church records dating back to the late 1700s. The church began as a branch of Yadkin Baptist Church, with some of Yadkin's most important leaders living in the Mulberry Community.

Many references are made about the early settlers of Mulberry Settlement in the Yadkin Baptist records. The Boones, Coffeys, Moores, and Greenes held prominent offices such as church clerk and deacons in the church.

The first recorded reference of Mulberry Church services was as follows: "The church meeting was held in the Mulberry Settlement the last Saturday of January, 1791."

The third Saturday in September, 1825 the church was seated in conference, and agreed to hold its next meeting in the Mulberry Settlement near Colonel Dickson's home.

The oldest existing records of Mulberry Baptist Church date back to the year 1853, and included a list of the 35 charter members.

The first recorded existing minutes were dated on the third Saturday of November, 1853.

The cornerstone set in the present Mulberry Baptist Church building contains the following information: "Founded 1853, built on this site 1900, rebuilt and dedicated September 7, 1975.

From 1853 until 1900s the church meeting house was in an old log structure, standing on the site where the Clyde Estes' home stands today.

In 1900, the church was built on the Edmisten property where it still stands.

In 1974, the church was rebuilt into a modern

brick structure with added classrooms, a paved parking area, and a fellowship hall was built later. It is one of the oldest landmarks in the community.

The church became a member of the Three Forks Association of Watauga County in August, 1854. It remained with this association until August 1, 1885. The record reads: "The church met in union, Elder A.S. Church, moderator, read minutes of last meeting. Motion prevailed requesting a letter of dismission from Three Forks Association; for the express purpose of helping organize a county association. On motion adjourned. Joel M. Crisp, Church Clerk."

From 1885 until the present, Mulberry Baptist Church has been an active member of the Caldwell Baptist Association.

On May 1, 1883 Warren Moore and A.S. Church were ordained as ministers.

On September 2, 1889 a motion was made and the church agreed to pay \$12.00 per year pastor's salary.

There were many interesting recordings in the church minutes pertaining to government, laws, and membership rights. Some were excluded for disputes between church members, profanity, not filling there seats in the worship house, and talking against the church. It was more difficult to be an active member of the church in the earlier years of its existence than it is today.

Mr. H. Ira Greene held the office of church clerk from 1926 - May 1984, when he was killed by his farm tractor rolling over him on his own farm. He held the office of Mulberry Baptist Church Clerk for 58 years, a record in itself, for his faithful work to the church where he also served as a deacon. The church appointed Mr. Greene's daughter, Coleene Greene Triplett, to the office of church clerk at his death. She has held this office since June 1994.

The Rev. J. Herring Crisp was pastor of the Mulberry Baptist Church from 1936 to 1938. He passed away in 1995. His father pastored the church from 1901 to 1904. His grandfather was

pastor of the church from 1890-1892. Three generations of the Crisp family have served the church. We are proud to have been honored by the Crisp family.

An interesting fact noted in the minutes was that there was no church meeting the second Saturday in April, 1916, due to an outbreak of small pox in the community.

The pastors and the dates they began serving at Mulberry Baptist Church as follows: Jacob Greene (1853), Elder Levi Wilson (1854), Elder John A. Farthing (1858), Elder Job Moore (1861), J.A. Farthing (1862), Thomas Nelson (1870), Larkin Pipes (1872), Job Moore, Isaac Smith (1874), R.P. Farthing (1876), Warren Moore (1880), Larkin Pipes (1881), E.M. Gragg (1882), Warren Moore (1884), A.S. Church (1885), Warren Moore (1886), A.S. Church (1888), Elder J.F. Crisp (1890), James Phillips (1892), Elder James Bradshaw (1883), James Phillips (1895), W.F. Night (1896), J.P. Hagaman (1899), E.D. Crisp (1901), James Franklin (1905), John P. Hagaman (1906), D.S. Lee (1908), J.R.J. Annas (1909), J.N. Nelson (1910), Robert Branch (1912), W.B. Bryant (1915), W.B. Bryant (1918), Wesley Ashley (1922), Charlie Cooke (1925), W.C. Payne (1927), J.W. Fox (1929), Charlie Cooke (1931), O.C. Delinger (1932), J. Herring Crisp (1936), Leonard Beane (1939), Broadus Miller (1945), Howard Shores (1948), Will Bolick (1951), Walter Dula (1959), Phillip Martin (1963), Ray Walker (1976), and Bennett Helton (1982).

-Mrs. Grant Moore

THE HISTORY OF MULVALE BAPTIST CHURCH

Mulvale Baptist Church, located in the Collettsville community was organized February 25, 1941 with 26 charter members bearing letters from Rocky Springs Baptist Church. The 26 members were: Joe A. Marlen, E.H. Clarke, Mary Moser, Glen Suddreth, Dosia Suddreth, Cecil Clarke, Maggie Marler, Sabie Puett, J.A. Marler, Rhea Holsclaw, Ruth Clarke, J.W. Phillips, Mary Estes, Annie Mac Clarke, Lucy Ann Clarke, Albert Clarke, Ruth Smith, Lillie Estes, Walter Estes, Mrs. R.B. Glass, Margaret Glass, Joe Glass, Mrs. T.J. Moore, Bertha Estes, Ruby Estes, and Eugenia Clarke.

On March 9, 1941, Mulvale Chapel Baptist Church was selected for the name of the church. A week later the word "Chapel" was defined by Rev. Zebulun Caudle, and the word "Chapel" was removed from the church name. Thus leaving the church name as Mulvale Baptist Church.

The Rev. Zebulun Caudle was elected as the first pastor, and he agreed to come as much as he could. Services were held each second Sunday at 3:00 p.m., and prayer meetings were at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

An interesting observation of the early minutes were that they had a business meeting almost everytime they met, and the scripture was always read by the pastor.

A plot of land on "Old Highway 90" was purchased from Mr. Agor Estes to build the new church building on March 16, 1941. A committee decided to build a tabernacle for a meeting place, thus the beginning of worship services at Mulvale. Frank Moser and Charlie Branch did the carpentry work, and Jonn and Charlie Branch laid the rock. The rock was hauled from Wilson's Creek by Watt Estes. In December 1941, the trustees applied for and received a loan of \$1,500.00 from Citizens Building and Loan to finish the erection of the church building. May 17, 1942 was the first Sunday worship services in the new church.

The first church letter to the Caldwell Missionary Baptist Association in October of 1941, showed the total membership of 53 (49 by letter or statement and 4 by experience and baptism).

The Finance Committee suggested for the first budget that the church collect each month \$5.00 for missions, \$2.50 for orphans, \$10.00 for the pastor, \$40.00 for the building fund, and \$.80 for lights.

During the polio epidemic in 1944, an interesting note was made. Mulvale cancelled a revival until the children could return to church.

The pastor's salary was raised to \$110.00 a month in 1951, and a vote to build the first parsonage was made in June of 1952. Also, the land directly behind the church was purchased from Rhea Holsclaw for \$500.00 in 1956. The present parsonage was built in 1980. In 1988, the stained glass windows in the sanctuary were installed and dedicated. The Fellowship Hall was built in 1989, and a media center was established inside the Fellowship Hall at that time. In 1991, we had our 50th anniversary celebration.

Those who have served the church as pastor are: Reverends Zebulum A. Caudle, J. Clinnard Brooks, J. Herring Crisp, Will Bolick, Lawrence Miller, Paul Jarvis, Gwyn Sullivan, Harvey Rumpfelt, Paul Braswell, H. M. McGinnis, Norman Lutz, Jack Hunter, H. H. McManus, Steve Walsh, James D. Burk, Larry Estes, Paul White, Jr., Gene Clark (interim), and Gary Teague.

THE HISTORY OF NELSONS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Nelsons Chapel Baptist Church was organized on December 28, 1905. A Sunday School had been held in Holly Grove School prior to the organization of the church. They continued to meet in the Holly Grove School until a church could be built in 1906 on land donated by George A. McCall. The church was given the name of "Nelsons Chapel" by Rev. J. H. Nelson who was instrumental in the organization. Nelsons Chapel became a member of the Caldwell Baptist Association on October 4, 1906. It had a total of 14 charter members. Their names are as follows: T. J. Craig and wife S. E. Craig, Susan Mays, Nettie Craig, Louise Wilson, Allie Craig, Dora Edmisten, Ollie Bradshaw, Edgar Dobbins, Walter Townsend, James Chandler, Robert McCall, James Underwood and Walter Wilson. E. L. Curtis was elected church clerk January 27, 1906 and served as clerk and superintendent of Sunday School until October 1945, when he resigned because of ill health.

On January 1959 a building committee was elected and plans made for a two story brick educational building. Part of the lower floor was to be used as an auditorium until a new sanctuary could be built onto the educational building. The church purchased property joining the church property from Gus Kirby at a cost of \$41,000 and the educational building was built about 300 yards from the original church building. The building was finished at a cost of approximately \$19,000 and entered into on October 1959. The old church was torn down, and a church cemetery has been established on that property. The final payment was made on the building in May 1965. In September 18, 1966, a building committee was elected to make plans to start construction on a new sanctuary, from plans that had been drawn up previously. The building was completed in April 1967 at a cost of approximately \$23,000. The final payment was made on July 24, 1971. On January 12, 1977, the church voted to build a fellowship hall, and work began February 27, 1977 at a total cost of \$17,158.51 plus \$1,158.01; for furniture all of which were taken from funds on hand without having to go into debt. The building was dedicated on July 24, 1977. In May 1978, a site was prepared to start work on a parsonage for the church. The parsonage was completed in 1978 at a cost of over

\$75,000. The debt on the parsonage was paid off in May of 1989.

A summer mission was begun in May of 1969 at the Little Holland Recreation Area. A lay member of the church was to conduct the services. It continued until the summer of 1974.

At present time, there are 130 resident members and 34 non-resident members.

The following pastors have served the church since 1905:

Rev. J. H. Nelson	(Jan. 1906 - Dec. 1907)
Rev. D. S. Lee	(Dec. 1907 - Aug. 1908)
Rev. I. C. Miller	(Sept. 1908 - Aug. 1910)
Rev. J. H. Nelson	(Nov. 1910 - Dec. 1911)
Rev. J. B. Reid	(Dec. 1911 - May 1912)
Rev. S. A. Stroup	(Dec. 1912 - Oct. 1913)
Rev. D. M. Wheeler	(Oct. 1913 - Sept. 1917)
Rev. W. B. Bryant	(Mar. 1918 - May 1924)
Rev. A. E. Watts	(July 1924 - June 1925)
Rev. R. H. Shore	(June 1925 - June 1940)
Rev. M. D. Blackburn	(June 1940 - Nov. 1941)
Rev. R. H. Shore	(Dec. 1941 - Jan. 1943)
Rev. J. M. Matney	(Feb. 1943 - Jan. 1946)
Rev. Clifton Tuttle	(Feb. 1946 - Feb. 1947)
Rev. Clinard Brooks	(May 1947 - Oct. 1952)
Rev. Gwen Sullivan	(Jan. 1953 - Oct. 1955)
Rev. Lawrence Miller	(Nov. 1955 - Dec. 1965)
Rev. R. B. Burnett (Int.)	(Jan. 1966 - Dec. 1970)
Rev. Gary James	(July 1966 - Dec. 1970)
Rev. Lawrence Miller	(Feb. 1971 - June 1976)
Rev. Raymond Sherrill (Int.)	(June - Aug. 1976)
Rev. Dale Matheson	(Aug. 1976 - May 1982)
Rev. Dale Larew (Int.)	(June 1982 - Sept. 1983)
Rev. Guy Langston	(Oct. 1983 - Jan. 1986)
Rev. Tony Barnes	(Mar. 1986 - July 1986)
Rev. John DeMauro	(Dec. 1986 - Apr. 1991)
Rev. Terry Barnes (Int.)	(Oct. 1991-Dec. 31 1991)
Rev. Leland Green	(Feb. 1991 - Sept. 25, 1994)
Rev. Douglas Triplett	(Oct. 1994 - Present)

Norma Cozort, Church Clerk
Nelsons Chapel Baptist Church

THE HISTORY OF NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

During the summer months of 1986, a small group of believers in Christ Jesus met in private homes during the weekday evenings; for Bible Study, prayer, and Christian fellowship. They had a great burden for the spiritually lost of Caldwell County, and a desire to be active in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Lord commanded his disciples to do in Matthew 28:19-20. After much prayer, this small group of 26 adults, being obedient to the Holy Spirit, stepped out in faith and chartered New Life Baptist Church as a Southern Baptist Church on September 24, 1986.

Over the next four years (from September, 1986 to December 1990), the New Life family would find itself moving to four temporary locations in Caldwell and Burke Counties. Although these moves were disruptive to church growth and often discouraging, the Lord provided the needed resources to continue His work. During this period, the Lord began to shape, mold, and spiritually mature the church body. This process was often painful as New Life Baptist Church was attacked by Satan at every turn from both inside and outside the church family. Despite discouragement and frustration, the membership encouraged each other and maintained a strong bond through faith and constant prayer. With each victory over Satan came a blessing from the Lord supplying reassurance in purpose, and renewed strength to continue the work of New Life for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ.

On May 26, 1988, the Lord provided the opportunity to purchase 10 1/2 acres of land on the Walt Arney Road as a permanent home. With limited financial resources and minimal church growth to this point, the church members once again stepped out in faith and purchased the land. A Building Committee was formed in April 1990, and the first worship service was held in the new permanent home on December 16, 1990. In six months, New Life saw its membership double with gifted new members to help continue the spread of the Gospel. Today, New Life has over 250 members.

THE HISTORY OF NORTH CATAWBA BAPTIST CHURCH

North Catawba Baptist Church was organized in 1795 under a brush arbor about one mile from the church's present site, taking the name from its geographical location north of the river. The earlier records were lost, and the first records the church has date back to 1825. The following charter members were living at that date: Elder William Bradshaw and wife, Annie Harshaw, Billie McDaniel and wife, Patty Conley, Nancy Bradshaw, Richard Beane and wife, and Susan Humphres.

There have been five locations since the church was organized. The first three buildings were made of logs, and the fourth building was of frame construction built by Elijah Bradshaw for a school, the Catawba Academy. This building was located about one-fourth mile from the present church. In 1859, the third log building burned and the church moved into the academy building, remaining there until a new building constructed at the present site was completed in 1907 on land, according to the church records, donated by Miss Agnes Bradshaw, daughter of Elijah Bradshaw. The church used this building until the present beautiful brick structure was completed in 1972.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1858, and the church elected four superintendents: Elijah Bradshaw, Sidney McCall, William Beane, and William Bradshaw.

The land on which the present building is located was given by the heirs of Elijah Bradshaw who served as deacon, clerk, and Sunday School Superintendent for many years. The church has furnished charter members for five churches, Enon and Antioch of the Catawba River Association, Mountain Grove, Lovelady, and Philadelphia Primitive Baptist church which pulled out when the church voted to support mission work in 1877. The Lovelady Church was constituted in 1878 of former Negro slaves that belonged to the church.

North Catawba was one of the charter members of the Catawba River Association, organized in 1829, and remained in that association until September 22, 1957 when the church voted to join the Caldwell Association. According to the records the church has ordained fifteen ministers to the gospel ministry: William Bradshaw, James Bradshaw, D. W. Conway, B. H. Martin, Reubin Hawks, J. S. Corpening, W. R. Bradshaw, W. A. McCall, Lloyd Smith, H. S. Benfield, D. B. Cannon, J. C. Brooks, R. F. Smith, Jr., David May, and Ned Webb.

The following ministers have served as pastors: Cleveland Coffey, Anderson Carlton, William Bradshaw, William Dodson, Hosea Holcomb, Reubin Coffey, Thomas Craig, J. J. Watts, James Bradshaw, D. W. Conway, C. C. Poole, R. L. Patton, J. A. Rector, I. W. Thomas, W. F. Hull, A. M. Murcheson, J. J. L. Sherwood, C. E. Beaver, A. W. Setzer, J. G. Benfield, W. R. Bradshaw, J. S. Benfield, C. A. Lineberger, J. L. Teague, W. B. Bryant, C. A. Abernethy, Perry Crouch, W. H. Flowers, D. B. Cannon, J. L. Bragg, Robert Frye, Joe Puett, R. M. Heavner, Paul Ross, James Peck, R. N. Hardin, David May, Gordon Scruggs, L. W. Teague, Ned H. Webb, Wayne V. Riddle, and John Barnhardt.

THE HISTORY OF OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday afternoon, November 20, 1938, the people of Union Grove Community met at Union Grove Methodist Church in order to organize a Missionary Baptist Church. Conference was open for business and nineteen members joined - fifteen by letter, three by baptism and one by watch care of the church. The church was then given the name of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Three deacons were elected as follows: John Franklin Richards, Alden Otis Mackie, and G.W. Helton. James Taft Richards was elected Church Clerk and A. O. Mackie, Secretary Treasurer.

On Friday night, December 2, 1938, Rev. J. W. Fox was nominated and elected pastor for the remaining of the associational year, to preach once each month. He was reelected and served until August 30, 1942. Then James T. Richards was elected to preach for six months.

On August 22, 1943, Rev. J. W. Fox was reelected as pastor of Oak Grove, and preached until Rev. Luther Hollar was nominated on October 3, 1943.

On November 5, 1944, Rev. Geter Porch was elected pastor.

Rev. Ray Yarborough was called as pastor on December 7, 1947. While Rev. Yarborough was pastor, Oak Grove parsonage was constructed. Rev. Yarborough served as pastor until April 29, 1951.

Rev. Ruppe of South Carolina served as supply pastor until the church called Rev. T. W. Hearne on June 3, 1951, from High Peak Baptist church in Valdese. Our present building was constructed during the time of his service. Rev. Hearne resigned on June 15, 1952.

During the following months Rev. J. W. Myers and Rev. Joe Richards served as supply pastors until Rev. Thomas B. Flowe was called on November 3, 1952. Rev. Flowe resigned on October 27, 1963.

Sgt. Ron Wirrell was called as supply pastor on December 15, 1963, and served until the church called Rev. Dean Harrold on April 19, 1964. Rev. Harrold served until October 8, 1967.

Billy Pipes and Walter Church served as supply pastors until Rev. Harold Meeks began his service on February 25, 1968. Rev. Meeks served as pastor until August 30, 1970.

Walter Church was supply pastor until Gordon Pope was called on January 10, 1971; and served until February 14, 1982.

Rev. J. Ervin Ledbetter was our supply pastor until Rev. Wayne White came as pastor on March 6, 1983.

Since its organization, the church has ordained five Ministers of the Gospel. The late Rev. James Taft "Jim" Richards was ordained on February 20, 1942. The Rev. Joe Richards was ordained Sunday, December 5, 1954. The Rev. John Willard "Pete" Myers was ordained Thursday, January 12, 1956. The Rev. Henry Hollar, Jr. was ordained Sunday, July 24, 1966. And the Rev. Billy Pipes was ordained on Sunday, June 28, 1970. Also, two have been licensed to preach - Dale Clark was licensed on May 15, 1960, and Walter Church on June 14, 1964.

The 50's

Construction on our present building began in 1951, with the second floor being completed in 1953, and the third floor in 1954. The previous building was the original Union Grove Methodist Church. In 1958 we were able to construct a very needed fellowship building.

The 60's

In 1960 the parsonage, originally constructed during the time Rev. Yarborough was pastor, was remodeled. The choir was also remodeled in 1960, and cement walks were poured around the church. Our baptistry and painting were dedicated on August 30, 1964. New pews and carpet were installed in the sanctuary in December 1964. The church purchased the property of Mrs. Nadine Richards in April 1965. Land for a cemetery, a gift of Shuford Mills, was acquired in July 1965. A side awning at the church was added in 1966, and our fellowship hall was remodeled and enlarged. For cemetery and other mowing jobs, the church

purchased a cub tractor in July 1967. Plans for landscaping the cemetery began in 1969, and the steps from the road to the cemetery was completed.

The 70's

Our fellowship building was enlarged again with the addition of a kitchen and rest rooms in 1970. A P.A. system was installed in March 1972; and a new car was purchased to start a "car ministry" in June 1972. The parking lot was paved in 1976. A new heating and air-conditioning system was installed, and the church bus was purchased in 1977. A much needed play area was completed in the summer of 1979.

The 80's

New equipment was purchased for the children's play area in the summer of 1982, and the area was dedicated in memory of four women who had faithfully worked with our children: Mrs. V.A. Baird, Mrs. Mary Carlton, Mrs. Mildred Hall, and Mrs. Precious Annas. Church halls were painted along with the second and third floor stairway walls in June 1983. Our Vacation Bible School received a Merit Award for the first time. And a copier and electric typewriter were purchased for the office in September 1983. Carpet, linoleum, and paint improved the first floor in May 1984. The covered walk from the educational building to the fellowship building was completed in August 1984. New cement walks were poured in October 1984. A van was purchased in December 1984. Our sanctuary was remodeled in April 1985, and our Vacation Bible School received an Advanced Award for the first time. To complete the remodeling of our sanctuary, three crosses were added in November 1985, and new choir pews were installed in December 1985. Our 1986 Vacation Bible School received a Distinguished Award...the highest award you can receive! A new utility building was constructed adjoining the fellowship building in July 1986. Lumber and pews were sent to aid in building Northgate Southern Baptist Church in Beckley, West Virginia. In October 1986, a new chapter of RA's was organized named "The Ledbetter's", and the existing chapter was named "Charles Poovey." In November 1986, the educational building was painted. Our sanctuary was painted in January 1987. In July 1987, a new sound system was installed, and a monument and flag pole were erected in our cemetery. The guttering was replaced and the outside trim of the

church was painted in October 1987. The church purchased the property of Johnny Perry in December 1987. In the Summer of '88, the outside trim of the parsonage was painted and for the first time our church had a summer youth worker, Leslie Holman. On Sunday, November 20, 1988, Oak Grove celebrated its 50th Anniversary exactly fifty years after its first service. Former Choir Director, W. P. "Bill" Richards, led in a congregational hymn, and former Pastor Rev. Ray Yarborough, Sr., was the speaker for the morning worship service. After a covered dish lunch, a song service was held. In May 1989, Leslie Holman returned as our summer youth worker. Oak Grove was host to the 105th Annual Meeting of the Caldwell Baptist Association on October 27, 1989.

The 90's

January 6, 1991, was the first Sunday for our new Choir Director, Gene Collins. New carpet was installed in the sanctuary. The ground breaking ceremony for our new educational building was held on Sunday, March 17, 1991. Two charter members were present - Vera Lee Harrison and Hattie Starnes. The dedication service for our new building was held on Homecoming Sunday, August 11, 1991. The building was open for viewing (with plastic down on the carpet... it was muddy outside), but classes were not moved in until the first Sunday of October. Events happening during 1992 include: our church was blessed with 18 additions - 14 by baptism and four by letter; a speaker's stand was donated for use in our chapel; Open House was held (on Homecoming) for our new Education Building and the Adult Day Care Center (located in the basement and operated as a service to our community by Blue Ridge Community Action); added a new Lanier Copier; purchased an ice machine for use in our fellowship building; observed special recognition Sundays for our members who served in the Armed Forces, our children and our Senior Adults; voted to accept the gift of a computer and to purchase a printer. HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED IN 1993 ---- 19 new members joined our church. March 14th was to have been Gene Collin's last Sunday as Choir Director (he had resigned because he felt a call into music evangelism), but services were not held that Sunday due to "THE STORM OF THE CENTURY." Jim Mull took over the choir again on Sunday, March 21st. The fence around the ball court was damaged by "THE STORM" and had to be replaced (insurance covered, of course). Our 1994-94 budget included placing \$200.00 monthly

into our existing Van Fund. We are in need of a van with air-conditioning and dual heater.

This year we have welcomed 34 new people into our fellowship (this does not include those who have made a profession but have not yet been baptized). Our thanks to Elaine Parish for the new valances in our Sunday School rooms and for making the new curtain for the baptistery. Mozelle White again represent our church on the Summer New York Mission Trip sponsored by the Caldwell Baptist Association.

**THE HISTORY
OF
OPEN DOOR BAPTIST CHURCH**

Open Door Baptist Church started as a mission out of Kings Creek Baptist Church on May 1, 1988, in the old South Lenoir Methodist Church building. At that time, we had 10 for Sunday School and 15 for worship services. Other churches donated books for our church and the nursery. The pastor was Tony Johnson. Charter members were: Pastor Tony Johnson, wife and 2 children; Gene and Jean Townsend; Jim and Mary Rose; Debbie Robinson and children; Dorothy Perkins, and Lucille McGarr.

Open Door Baptist Church was first constituted on August 25, 1991. The members at that time were Pastor Allen and Shirley Younce; Billy and Mary Calloway; Roger and Mary Calloway; Patricia, Amanda, Elvie and Roger Calloway; Heath and Odell Miller; Gene and Jean Townsend; Dorothy Perkins, and Lucille McGarr.

As of now the members are: Pastor Allen and Shirley Younce; Roger, Mary, Amanda, Elvie and Roger Calloway; Patricia and Daniel Hall; Dorothy Perkins; and Lucille McGarr.

We would like to see the Lord continue blessing the church, and souls saved and added to the church. We are looking forward to building in the future. Pray for the church as a whole.

Brother in Christ,
Pastor Allen Younce and Members

THE HISTORY
OF
PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Piney Grove Baptist Church in the Yadkin Valley community was organized September 15, 1869 with seven members, bearing letters from Kings Creek, Meadow Hill, and German Hill churches. The seven were: L. G. Pennel, Jefferson Watts, Anney Simmons, William Pennel, Manusa A. Pennel, Smith Watts, and Nancy Simmons. The constituting presbytery was Rev. Linvil Land and Rev. J. H. West, with Rev. Land being chosen the first pastor.

The original building was a log structure which was replaced by a frame building in 1887. The frame building was destroyed by fire February 16, 1941. A second frame building was dedicated in 1943, with additional Sunday School space added to the main building in 1950. The church parsonage was erected in 1957. A new sanctuary was built in 1978. In 1995, the old framed building was renovated for educational use.

Those who have served the church as pastors are: the Reverends Linvil Land, J. H. West, Isaac Smith, R. H. Moody, G. H. Church, A. S. Church, J. S. Gwaltney, A. T. Pardue, John H. Nelson, I. C. Miller, John Carlton, George Z. Bumgarner, J. W. Watts, J. L. Greene, Will J. Cook, E. C. Hodges, Clifton Tuttle, Bernard Tuttle, Gwyn P. Sullivan, Clell Cook, Stuart Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Dale Thronburg, John O. Adams, G. H. Shope, Jr., David Philbeck, and Gilbert L. Larew.

During the years, the church sent from its midst five men to preach the gospel: I. J. Hawkins, R. L. Adkins, Walter M. Dula, Ira Greene, and Kevin Holder.

The first burial in the church cemetery was Mrs. Ruth Sharpe, wife of James T. Sharpe.

Piney Grove Baptist Church was one of the charter members of the Caldwell Association when it was organized October 22, 1885.

Sources: Lenoir News Topic; Ira Green, personal knowledge. (The history which was compiled in 1983 is taken from The Heritage of Caldwell County and is used by permission.

- John O. Hawkins

**THE HISTORY
OF
PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Pisgah Baptist Church was founded in May 1877, when John A. Farthing and Isaac Smith were called to form a presbytery to constitute a new church. There were 25 charter members, and services were held one Sunday each month.

In June 1877, the church was admitted to the Three Forks Baptist Association. After several years, in 1885, the church became a member of the Caldwell Missionary Baptist Association, and two members from Pisgah were placed on committees at the first meeting. They were J. F. Crisp and the Rev. John Crisp.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1891 by R. A. Crisp, who was the first Sunday School superintendent.

Years passed, and in 1953, with the construction of a new building, the church was relocated directly across the road from the original location.

In 1963, a wing was added to the building. In 1991, the Pisgah Baptist Church family moved into a new sanctuary with the seating capacity of 500.

In 1963, a wing was added to the building to help accommodate the growing membership. The most recent addition, a new sanctuary with a 500 seat capacity, was completed and occupied in July 1991.

The present pastor is Rev. Horace Minton.

THE HISTORY OF POOVEY'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday afternoon, April 10, 1932, a presbytery met in what was then the Pine Mountain schoolhouse; for the purpose of organizing a church. The schoolhouse and 1 1/2 acres of land had been purchased earlier from the state of North Carolina by W. F. Hatley; for the sum of one hundred dollars for this purpose.

The presbytery consisted of eight men: Dr. R. D. Carrol, Rev. Maston Bradshaw, Rev. Luther Haas, Rev. Joe Greer, Rev. Leonard Bean; Deacon H. E. Austin, and Deacon C. W. Colvard.

For several years the Rev. Joe Greer had conducted worship services, several times a month for the community in the schoolhouse. The Rev. Greer would walk from his home in Granite Falls.

The people felt a growing need for a church in the community; the newly organized church was named Poovey's Chapel Baptist Church.

There were twenty-six charter members:

G. S. Hartley, G. M. Hatley, Frank Hatley, R. T. Hartley, Earl Hartley, W. F. Hatley, Roy Hartley, J. R. Barber, Carl Smith, Alex Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Mary Hatley, Laura Hartley, Grace Hartley, Lucy Hatley, Mrs. Floyd Henderson, Lois Henderson, Mattie Justice, Gladys Hartley, Mrs. J. R. Barber, Flossie Smith, Floe Henderson, Julie Austin, Sadie Austin, Myrtle Austin, and Lydia Duncan.

The church adopted a constitution containing five articles. The first article stated that the government of the church would be according to the New Testament; teaching would be independent in form; and the right of administration would be in the body itself. The fifth article stated that the constitution could be altered or amended by two-thirds of the members voting to do so.

The church also adopted rules of decorum providing for the minister to assume the office of moderator. The general duties of members were outlined in four sections. Section one sets forth the duties of the members as the acquisition of scriptural knowledge for themselves; and the

individual duty of each member was to cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all other members of the church.

A new church covenant was adopted, "Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior."

The new church also adopted an abstract of principles with nine different articles. Article one stated, "We believe in only one and true living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead. The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost, and that they are one."

The first deacons were: W. F. Hatley, and J. R. Barber with G. S. Hartley being appointed a few months later. The first church clerk and treasurer was G. S. Hartley, and the first Sunday School Superintendent was W. F. Hatley. He was also songleader.

On May 15, 1932, the Rev. Maston Bradshaw was called to be the first pastor, and in July, the Rev. Joe Greer preached the first revival.

The first delegates to the Caldwell Baptist Association were appointed in September, 1932. These were: G. S. Hartley, J. R. Barber, W. F. Hatley, and G. M. Hatley.

On September 11, 1932, the first Lord's Supper was observed.

The Rev. Bradshaw resigned in November of that same year, and the newly organized church found itself without a pastor. On January 22, 1933, Rev. Guthrie Curtis was called as pastor and served until October, 1935. The next minister was Rev. J. H. Crisp who was called on November 17, 1935. This was Rev. Crisp's first pastorate.

In July, 1937, The REA brought electricity to the community, and Poovey's Chapel got its first electric lights. Until that time, hanging kerosene lamps had been used.

Rev. Crisp left August 20, 1938, and in October the Rev. Dewey Helton was called as pastor. He served until September 1939. The next minister

was the Rev. R. L. Prestwood, who served exactly two years. At that time, the Rev. Crisp was called as pastor a second time.

It was during this time that the church saw the need of a new sanctuary. A building fund was started for that purpose. In the year 1943, Mrs. Julia Austin donated approximately one acre of land as a building site; the deed was delayed until December 1946.

Rev. Crisp resigned as pastor in September 1942, and that same month Rev. Frank Knight was called. During Rev. Knight's ministry, the building plans were approved. Rev. Crisp was commissioned to draw the plans for the new sanctuary.

The first building committee consisted of John Haas, Oren Hartley, and W. M. Bollinger. The sanctuary was completed at a cost of approximately \$10,000. The first service held in it was the Christmas program in 1947.

The first couple to be united in holy matrimony were Donald Hatley and Corinne Knight. The event was November 8, 1947, in the first church building. The Rev. J. H. Crisp officiated.

Reverend Knight resigned in August 1951, and on October 7, 1951, the Reverend Will Bolick was called as pastor. Rev. Bolick served until August 1953. At that time Reverend Horace Harris was called.

The Woman's Missionary Union was begun in 1953 with Mrs. Edith Hartley serving as first president. The Y.W.A.'s (Young Woman's Auxiliary) was begun in 1957. G.A.'s began in 1954, Sunbeams in 1963.

The Missionary growth has come a long way since then. The Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions in 1955 was \$57.80, and in 1981 it was \$1,177.00. The Annie Armstrong offering for home missions in 1955 was \$79.59, and in 1981 it was \$855.13. North Carolina Missions offering for 1981 was \$397.85. In 1981, World Hunger offering was \$214.65. We are giving 12% of our budget to the Cooperative Program and 2% to the Caldwell Baptist Program. Douglas Corley and his family have gone into fulltime mission work; Daniel Haas is pastoring a church in Georgia. Both grew up in our church.

During Reverend Harris' pastorate, the Poovey's Chapel library was started in February, 1954. Each member was asked to contribute a book. Coleen Hartley (Coffey) was elected the first librarian, and the first library committee was Don Hatley, Alice Hartley, and Edith Hartley.

Poovey's Chapel has ordained one minister, the Reverend Marvin Saunders on September 4, 1955. Reverend Harris was pastor at that time.

The church expanded its grounds in June, 1955, with the purchase of one acre of land from Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn Hartley.

On February 19, 1956, a special conference was called and the building committee presented to the church a proposal; for building a new sanctuary rather than making additions to the existing building and attempting to update it. The old building would be used for an educational building. The church approved this plan and Poovey's Chapel was in the building program again.

On June 3, 1956, Reverend Harris' resignation was accepted and on July 13, 1956, Reverend Sam Silvers became pastor. He served until March 31, 1957. Reverend Victor Phillips succeeded him in June and served until February, 1958. On April 6, 1958, Reverend Charlie Holshouser began serving as supply pastor.

During This time, construction continued and many members donated time, money, and materials. The new sanctuary was completed at approximately a cost of \$63,000 with the pews installed. The first service was celebrated in the new sanctuary on the first Sunday in July, 1959.

The first Bible School Poovey's Chapel conducted with its own staff was held in August 1958, with Mrs. Katherine Holshouser as principal.

Reverend Charlie Holshouser resigned December 6, 1959, and on January 3, 1960, and the Reverend Charlie Keener became pastor.

In April 1960, the church bought 1 1/2 acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn Hartley for the purpose of building a parsonage. On July 7, 1968, the church decided to building a parsonage at the cost of approximately \$21,500.

In September 1968, the church approved the purchase of an electric organ for \$2,000.

Reverend Keener resigned July 5, 1970 and the Reverend W. R. Moss, and Reverend Alfred Gibson served as supply pastors until a new minister was called. Reverend Charles Perry became pastor October 4, 1970; he and his family were the first to occupy the parsonage.

Since the original constitution had not been reviewed or amended since its inception, it was felt that revisions were in order. A new constitution was written with twelve articles. On September 24, 1972, the church adopted the new constitution.

In October, 1972, the church voted to pave the upper parking lot and the driveway of the parsonage at the cost of \$2,875.

On September 9, 1973, Poovey's Chapel held a note burning for the parsonage, with Rev. Perry, Gwyn Hartley, Donald Hatley, Edgar Haas, Bob Hartley, Marion McCall, and special guest Miss Elizabeth Campbell, Associational Missionary taking part.

On November 17, 1974, the church bought the Lee Hatley property for \$10,000. This property is now the home of Lewis Williams, our music director.

The Rev. Charles Perry resigned as pastor on November 24, 1974.

The Rev. Alfred Wright, an evangelist from Kings Mountain, served as supply pastor from December 1, 1974 through February 23, 1975.

Reverend Ronnie Settle served as supply pastor from March 2, 1975 until March 28, 1976.

On February 15, 1976, the church called the Rev. H. Dean Harrold as pastor. Rev. Harrold and his wife, Doris, began serving April 4, 1976.

On April 17, 1977, the church voted to carpet the basement, front steps and porch at a cost of \$2,240.

On June 6, 1977, the church voted to air condition the sanctuary at a cost of \$5,300.

In April 1978, the church voted to purchase an activity bus.

Poovey's Chapel continues to worship God, and reach out to others under the leadership of the Reverend Dean Harrold. Our present deacon board consists of seven active deacons and four inactive deacons. They are Dyskie Haas, Chairman; Noel Philyaw, David Livingston, Carl Coffing, Paul Gilliam, Howard Severt, Paul Witherspoon, Donald Hatley, Olen Hartley, Marion McCall, and Eugene Coffey.

Lewis Williams serves as Music Director; Corinne Hatley, organist; Betty Sue Justice, pianist; Ernie Harris serves as Sunday School Director; and Rena Lawing is serving as librarian. Coleen Coffey serves as W.M.U. Director; Margaret Livingston as clerk. Carol Morgan is serving as Bible School Director. The church constitution members are: Donald Hatley, David Livingston, Barbara McCall, Joyce Hartley, and Coleen Coffey. The history committee consists of Myrtle Hartley and Margaret Livingston.

There were 26 members as the church began. Total present membership is 235 with the value of the church property at \$105,000.

We pray that God will continue to bless POOVEY'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH as He has in its first fifty years.

THE HISTORY OF POOVEY'S GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the community 2 to 3 miles east of Granite Falls, extending to the Catawba River and Gunpowder Creek, there lived rugged pioneers who believed in the Lord but had no church in which to worship. Into the hearts of some there came a vision, and they began plans to make it a reality. Near a grove about 3 miles east of Granite they built a brush arbor and laid planks from one stump to another to serve as pews. From this (unique) setting we have the following account from their first record book:

"A presbytery of elders: J. Z. Griffin and N. W. Conway; Deacons: D. L. Miller, J. A. Turnmyer, and N. W. Helton met on Saturday before the first Sunday in November 1898 with those holding letters. After examination of letters presented, the following: J. S. Poovey, Monrow Spencer, H. C. Starnes, wife Caroline Starnes, and daughter M. C. Starnes were constituted into and declared to be a regular Baptist Church. They approved the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith as formed in Church members Manual. J. S. Poovey was set apart to the office of deacon by prayer and imposition of hands. J. S. Poovey was appointed church clerk. Opened doors of church - J. C. Travis and N. C. Chester came forward and were received on application, having been regularly baptized into fellowship of Baptist Church August 11, 1898."

The church continued to worship in the brush arbor for some time. For the first year two ministers: Rev. J. Z. Griffin and Rev. W. W. Conway, worked together in pastoring the church. J. S. Poovey served as clerk part of first year and at his resignation, R. N. Travis was elected.

During the early years of Poovey's Grove Baptist Church, a meeting was held on Saturday afternoon once a month with preaching service and a conference. Because of distance and way of travel the Pastor would conduct Saturday afternoon services in the community and have service on Sunday morning.

A much quoted statement in the conference minutes was this: "The Church was seated in conference, inquired for the fellowship - all was peace." There is a record of one exclusion because

of walking disorderly.

On Saturday before the third Sunday in March 1899, it was moved and seconded to appoint a building committee for the purpose of building a church house. J. S. Poovey, George Poovey, John Keller, Elisha Keller, Noah Helton, William Martin, and R. N. Travis were named. There is no record as to when the building was completed. J. S. Poovey gave the building site and most of the building materials. His wife, Mrs. Ann Poovey, gave a \$20 gold piece to be used to buy the windows. Because of the generosity of this couple, the church was named in their honor, "Poovey's Grove Baptist Church." This first structure was a one room, wooden, box type with two doors at the front.

In July 1899, delegates were appointed to the Caldwell Baptist Association which met at Blair's Fork Baptist Church.

L. D. Keller became church clerk in November, 1899, and served until his death, November 1935.

Rev. W. W. Conway served as Pastor through August 1899 when Rev. J. Z. Griffin continued the ministry until October 1900. These men "blazed the trail." In November of the same year, Rev. J. M. Shaver began his work as Pastor of Poovey's Grove and continued until April 1910. In August 1901, the first revival meeting was held with Rev. N. J. Fox visiting preacher. It continued for six days.

April 1911 the church gave Rev. J. B. Reid a unanimous call as Pastor. It was under his leadership that the first Sunday School was organized - officers elected were: L. D. Keller, Supt.; J. W. Keller, teacher of Advanced Quarterly men's class; Mary Keller, Advanced Quarterly women's class; G. W. Keller, Junior Boys class; Sarah Martin, Junior Girls Class; Clarence Keller, Secretary.

In May 1911, Poovey's Grove Baptist Church partook of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In June of the same year a collection of \$1.50 was taken for the orphanage.

In November 1912, the church witnessed the passing of their young man of God, Rev. Reid. Rev. J. M. Shaver was then called back as minister.

The second ministry of Rev. Shaver's was a fruitful one. Mission work was stressed. The first Home Mission Offering was collected March 1915 - amount \$1.50. Later offerings were taken for State and Foreign Missions. On August of this year E. V. Starnes and W. P. Keller were ordained as deacons. During the week of August 15, 1915, a "protracted" meeting was held. Rev. C. A. Rhyne assisted Rev. Shaver and 15 persons accepted Christ and were baptized. An organ was bought in 1916. It is thought the cost was about \$25 or \$30. Mrs. O. P. Starnes (Beulah) became the organist. Up until that time D. Keller, the "song leader," did the "Sol-me-do-sol-do" and "histed" the tune. Mrs. Starnes carried a quilt to church, and put Fred, who was then the baby, on it while she played.

So far as can be determined from minutes, in the two periods Rev. Shaver served Poovey's Grove Church, the time was approximately twenty five years. He missed very few services in that time. For several years of that time he rode horse back or by buggy through cold and heat, rain, and shine, from Antioch Community in Alexander Association. Sometimes he preached to only 3 or 4 on Saturday afternoons. He was prompt, faithful, and a great believer in young people and a splendid teacher and preacher of the Word. Had it not been for this Servant, with the Lord's help, Poovey's Grove might not be a Baptist Church today.

Rev. J. G. Benfield, a Caldwell man, came on the scene as Pastor in 1926. A revival was held in that year, that was outstanding in the lives of the members. The preaching was done by Pastor Benfield himself. A very special prayer was prayed for rain because of extremely dry conditions. The rain came down all week on the parched earth and, great spiritual showers were poured out on the church. Fifteen persons accepted Christ, and they were baptized in the Catawba River. September 12, 1926, the church was called in Conference to license Gordon L. Keller into the gospel ministry. The BYPU was re-organized which had been started during the former Pastorate. Members of the BYPU decided to do some work in dramatics. So they cast the play, "An Old Fashioned Mother" and gave it several times in different churches. Under Rev. Benfield's leadership some improvements were made on the church building.

To this box type (style) building an annex was added back of the pulpit. The whole structure was then painted white.

To Rev. S. W. Bennett, who served the church from 1930-1932, this church was always "The First Baptist Church of Poovey's Grove." During his ministry, the BYPU had a banquet which was an outstanding event to the young people. The scene was that of "Poovey's Grove." The banquet room was decorated with different kinds of trees, and each member was a tree in the grove with place markers of cuts from trees on which the person's picture was pasted. The program was "trees." Rev. Bennett was spoken of as having the love of a John and the fiery zeal of an Elijah.

Rev. B. H. Parker, a quiet, humble, dedicated servant was pastor from 1932-1939. It was a red letter year for the church when the brick auditorium was erected 1938! A large number of souls were added to the church in these years.

The old wooden structure was sold to Mr. G. C. Anderson, who moved it away, converted it into a regular house and rented it. Later when unoccupied it burned down.

Following Rev. Parker's resignation, Rev. L. W. Teague was called by the church and served 2 years. He left Poovey's Grove to become a military Chaplain. The first piano for the church was purchased through his leadership.

On August 11, 1940, Rev. S. M. Stroupe was called and he served through May 1947. In this period of church history, the Caldwell Baptist Association was one of the first in the state to employ an Associational Missionary. Poovey's Grove voted to cooperate and help support the missionary. The first one employed was from Poovey's Grove Church - Ruth Keller.

Debt on the auditorium was paid off in November, 1942. A special dedication service was held November 15, 1942.

Soon a building fund was started for a parsonage. This was built in 1945. On December 29, 1946, the church voted to have a full time pastor. Rev. Stroupe was the first pastor, and he and his family the first to live in the parsonage.

The first written records of the WMU work was in 1941.

Mrs. Vergie McCorkle, President; Mrs. Foster Fulbright, Vice-President; Pearl Keller, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. H. J. Starnes, Mission Study Chairman; and Mrs. Henry Setzer, Personal Service Chairman.

At the first missionary meeting, a State Mission Offering of \$3.50 was given. Many accounts of visits, sending cards, gowns, flowers, foods to sick and shut-ins are recorded in the minutes. Some even had wood cut for shut-ins. Soon the mission youth groups were organized and a full mission program was in full sway. Much history was made during Rev. Stroupe's ministry.

After the resignation of Rev. Stroupe a pulpit committee was appointed, namely: Earl Bumgarner, Harvey Sherrill and Garland Keller. On their visit to talk with Rev. Carter they had a singular impression which led them to ask him to speak to the church. He was given a unanimous call September 21, 1941. Under his leadership an educational plant was erected in 1952 at a cost of \$27,500. The debt was paid and dedication service was held September 6, 1955. Rev. Earl Bradley, State field missionary, was guest speaker. The mortgage burning was in charge of Garland Keller, Deacon Chairman; Howard Starnes, Building Committee Chairman, and E. V. Starnes, honorary deacon emeritus. January 24, 1954, the church licensed J. D. Craig to the ministry.

Rev. Carter, a hard working, uncompromising servant, left Poovey's Grove Church to become Superintendent of missions in the Rowan Association.

Rev. Paul Lovingood was called as undershepherd August 1, 1957. Under his leadership the auditorium was remodeled into a beautiful modern sanctuary at a cost of \$35,000. Pews were bought from a church in South Carolina. These were refinished by men of the church.

An electric organ was donated by Mrs. E. V. Starnes in memory of her husband.

A number of the men were led to become lay witnesses.

Rev. Audley Frazier became Pastor of Poovey's Grove in 1963. In a quiet and dignified manner, Pastor Frazier led the church in worship and went about the community bringing comfort and cheer to the people. Mrs. Howard Starnes gave a piano

to the youth department in memory of her Daddy, L. D. Keller, and Mrs. L. D. Keller gave the bench for it in memory of her husband.

Rev. W. R. Moss was interim Pastor after Rev. Frazier's resignation.

At this period (1968) in the history of Poovey's Grove, South Carolina gave one of their Bible Scholars to serve the church - Rev. B. Lester Huff. He was a man of God who seemed literally saturated with the Gospel.

A new Parsonage was built during Rev. Huff's pastorate. Rev. and Mrs. Huff were the first to live in the new house.

The Senior Citizens organization became very active in these years.

At the death of Rev. Huff, Pastors of three neighbor churches in turn each preached a month in the morning worship hour, which was held at Sunday School time and Sunday School met after worship time. These ministers gave this service and Poovey's Grove Church feels a deep sense of gratitude to the following: Rev. Claud Dick, Pastor of Granite Falls First Baptist; Rev. Roy Collins, Pastor of Concord Baptist; and Rev. Guy Longshore, pastor of Rhodhiss Baptist Church.

Rev. Raymond Long came in with a "bounce" and kept "on the go."

Robey Abernethy was recognized as having attended Sunday School for 23 years without missing.

Mrs. L. D. Keller was honored on her 90th birthday in October 1973. After her death in 1974, cushions were placed in the pews in her memory, by her children and memorial gifts of friends.

A table for the register in the vestibule was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Anderson, by their grandchildren.

A music Director, Mr. Ronald Hendricks, was employed in 1974.

Rev. Charles Whitaker became Pastor in 1976, and he served until 1978. He was a student of the Bible, and he continued taking some courses while here, until he received his degree.

Dr. Smoot Baker became interim Pastor when Rev. Whitaker left the field. He and his wife were a great inspiration to the church.

In 1979, Rev. Phillip Latta came to Poovey's Grove pastorate with a smile and love for everyone. He and his wife, Paulette, soon became much involved in the Lord's work, both at Poovey's Grove and in Caldwell Association.

A ramp was built onto the auditorium in 1979.

Memorial stained glass windows were installed in May 1980. The following is a list of those memorialized and the donors: Edgar V. Starnes and Amanda Starnes by children; in memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Keller by children; in memory of Oliver Pinkney Starnes, Beulah Poovey Starnes and Fred Starnes by family; donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bob McCorkle and Mark McCorkle; in memory of Wade L. Thompson and John H. Thompson by Mrs. Wade Thompson; donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Keller, Sr. and Linda Keller; given by Poovey's Grove Baptist Church; donated by Mrs. Paul Kiziah and family; in memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Christopher by children; in memory of John W. Keller and Mary C. Keller by children; in memory of Franklin W. Foster and Phyllis Foster Wright by Mrs. F. W. Foster; in honor of Robey L. Abernethy by Bonnie A. Abernethy; in memory of Garland C. Anderson and Jessie Sears Anderson by Sam Anderson and family; in memory of Henry Setzer by Setzer family; in memory of George W. Keller, Sr. by children.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions in December 1979 was the largest the church had ever given: \$3,719.59. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions in April 1980 was also the largest ever given: \$1,534.07.

Baptist Young Women was organized in March 1980.

During the years 1980-1984, the mission organizations of the church made progress. The Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women received achievement certificates. Also the youth organizations: Acteens, Girls-In-Action, and Mission Friends received recognition.

The Brotherhood became more active and progress was made in the Crusader and Pioneer R.A.'s. Camps have been attended and women's groups

have attended State W.M.U. conventions. In October, 1980 the church engaged in World Missions Conference Week in Caldwell Association. The church had a different missionary speaker each night during the week.

In November, 1980 a revision of the constitution and by-laws was approved by the church as updated by a committee consisting of: Omega Starnes, Ralph Keller, Bob McCorkle, Joe Teague, Clyde Keller, and Sam Anderson.

Early in the year of 1981, the Brotherhood with Stirl Dula, Director, expressed a desire to do a mission work in West Virginia. March 15, 1981, the church elected the following as a Missions Committee: Rena Kiziah, Stirl Dula, Edgar Starnes, Paul Teague, and Pearl Hawkins. Through the North Carolina Baptist Convention, Poovey's Grove Church was assigned, Union, West Virginia, as a town for a Southern Baptist Mission with Edgemont Baptist Church, Bluefield, West Virginia as a partner church. Poovey's Grove voted to go into this work on a five (5) year plan.

A group from our church and some from Edgemont Church made a survey in the town of Union. The American Legion Building was rented for a meeting place. A group of men and women went up and cleaned the building, painted, and cleaned the grounds.

In March, 1981, Mrs. Marlene Alexander, was elected to serve as Minister of Music. Further work was done in West Virginia. In August, Backyard Bible Clubs were conducted under the leadership of Marlene Alexander, Lewis Johns, a summer youth worker, the Pastor, Rev. Phillip Latta, and the youth of our church. A Revival was conducted there in September 1981, sponsored by Edgemont Baptist Church, Pastor, Rev. Skidmore, and by Poovey's Grove Baptist Church, Rev. Latta, Pastor.

Christmas 1981 - a picture of the Nativity Scene located in front of the church parsonage was featured on front page of The Granite Press.

Early in the year of 1982, Rev. John Davis was appointed by the Home Mission Board as Church Planner for our Mission in West Virginia.

February 6, 1982, a joint meeting of Poovey's Grove Church and Edgemont Church Missions Committees to form an agreement as to procedure

on The Mission.

October 10, 1982 was "Ole Fashion Golden Age" Sunday with dinner in the fellowship hall.

November, 1982, a Revival was led by a team from Gardner-Webb College.

December, 1982 - The Children's Choir presented "Christmas Around The World." For Christmas that year 40 poinsettias were placed in the church by members.

A W.M.U. enlistment banquet with Mrs. Faye Bragg, speaker was a highlight on March 4, 1983. Another first for W.M.U. was a prayer retreat on September 27, 1983.

On October 30, 1983 the church voted to buy a van.

Another outstanding work of our church in 1983 was having a great part in buying 6 1/2 acres of land in Union, West Virginia for a location of a church.

On February 26, 1984, Rev. Phillip Latta resigned as Pastor of Poovey's Grove Baptist Church.

On March 25, 1984 the church called Rev. Roger Mercer as Pastor.

Rev. Clifton Tuttle, Rev. Homer Brady, and Rev. Ernest Robinson supplied as pastor for the church during the time of March through July.

**THE HISTORY
OF
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**

On August 21, 1994, a group of 24 believers, seeking to start a fellowship that would promote open and free worship, as well as, a constant challenge to know Christ and make Him known, met at the home of Travis and Kathy Triplett. The Triplett's backyard was the first place this fellowship of believers asked each other and our great God, "What does God want?" Later we were invited to meet and worship at Mitchell and Kelly Watson's home.

After discussing matters openly and being in prayer, our heavenly Father led us to ask Dwight Rice to become our pastor. Dwight Rice was asked to serve as our pastor on September 5, 1993 with 100% of our fellowship in favor. On the same day, several names for the fellowship were mentioned. The various names were balloted and the name "Providence Baptist Fellowship" was chosen.

Meetings were later moved from the Watson's home to the present home of Providence Baptist Church at 1241 Hibriten Drive, Lenoir. In the October 1993 annual meeting of the Caldwell Baptist Association, our petition to come under the watchcare of the association was granted. On November 7, 1993, a constitution service was publicly announced, whereby we became a cooperating Southern Baptist church known as Providence Baptist Church.

Providence Baptist Church has a unique philosophy: **"ALWAYS PRESERVE OUR ABILITY TO CHANGE."** It is our desire to be able to immediately, completely, and pleasantly follow God without having to battle the traditions of men in order to do so. Our great God has particularly challenged us to **Call Caldwell County To Christ.** We hope to do our part in reaching this county for Christ through an evangelism strategy that God gave to our pastor, called **THE E-FACTOR.** This strategy is designed to integrate all the various levels of growth within our fellowship in a process of reaching newcomers in our county through a series of Gospel touches.

Please pray that our history will always declare, that we have been faithful to the task that God has assigned to us.

**THE HISTORY
OF
RHODHISS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

On February 16, 1906, Twenty-nine Baptists met and organized a Baptist church, which was named Rhodhiss Baptist Church. W. P. Southern, a member, was elected pastor. The Rhodhiss Baptist Church became a member of the Caldwell Baptist Association on September 16, 1906, and from that day until this, has constantly supported the program of the Association as well as Southern Baptist Convention in all of its phases.

The church held its first services in the homes of the members and later in what became the conference room for the mill office. On July 11, 1911, the church voted to purchase the Lutheran Church building.

Down through the years the church has continually been engaged in a building program. On May 11, 1958, the church voted to build the present building to be located on land donated by Pacific Mills. The first worship service was held in the new building on December 21, 1958. The message was brought by the pastor, Rev. W. L. Pitts.

The church has been served by the following twenty-four pastors: W. P. Southern, G. C. Ivery, C. M. Ervin, C. A. Rhyne, W. A. Stephenson, O. C. Abee, J. G. Benfield, T. A. Payne, H. B. Chronister, W. D. Early, Leroy Thomas, L. W. Teague, R. F. Mayberry, Jeta Baker, Frank Colburn, L. Vernon Connell, C. B. Bobbitt, W. L. Pitts, Harold L. Brown, Sr., Millard Crumpler, E. Guy Longshore, Jr., James D. Cool, David Philbeck, and Dr. Robert E. Wiggins, Sr., and since July 1993, Conrad G. Hefner.

On January 12, 1958, the name of Rhodhiss Baptist Church was changed to the First Baptist Church of Rhodhiss.

The church is now, as in the past, active in the Southern Baptist Convention programs at the National, State, and Associational levels and contributes 13% of her budget to missions through the Cooperative Program and 3% to the Caldwell Baptist Association. The church has also been very involved in missions through the Volunteer-In-Missions program, sending one pastor, Rev. Guy Longshore to Uganda for a revival. Three other members, through the Foreign Mission Board, have served in various countries. Adults and youth have served through the Home Mission Board in New Orleans, LA, Myrtle Beach, SC, & Ohio, and in Huntington, West Virginia.

THE HISTORY OF ROCKY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Rocky Springs Baptist Church was organized on March 11, 1843 about a mile from its present site on the Webb place near the waterfalls, hence the name of Rocky Springs. Joseph Harrison, Thomas Craig and Thomas Carlton founded the church and soon after it was moved to its present location.

This is Book No. 2

It contains the constitution of the Rocky Springs Church. The articles of faith, the rules of decorum, and the general regular and special records of the church.

The regular and Gospel constitution of the church at the Rocky Springs was entered into and performed on the 11th of March A.D. 1843. By a presbytery consisting of Elders Joseph Harrison, Thomas Craig, and Thomas Carlton, together with the church, on the following articles of faith to which is annexed the rules of decorum.

We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and that they are one.

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, that they are the work of God and contain all things necessary for faith and practice.

We believe in the total depravity of man, and his impotency to deliver himself from the fallen state he is in.

We believe in the doctrine of Election and effectual calling.

We believe in the final perseverance of saints in grace to glory.

We believe that the Supper and Baptism, are ordinances of God's appointment, and that Baptism by immersion is the only proper mode, and believers the only true subjects.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead both of the just, and unjust, and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

On October 22, 1885 the Caldwell Baptist Association was organized at Rocky Springs Baptist Church. The Association met at Rocky Springs again in 1885, 1898, 1912, 1923 and 1938.

According to the minutes in 1896 the pastor who was Rev. E.D. Crisp received \$24.04 for a year. In 1908 the pastors salary was \$62.87 per year. It was also recorded that the church gave a contribution to foreign missions, state missions and Colportage (I haven't been able to find out what that was for.) In this year the following Brethren was appointed to consult an architect, get plans and prices for a new church building: Elisha Puett, J.H. Dickson, M.C. Setzer, J.W. Bryson, J.S. Estes, J.W. Davis and J.C. Green.

In January 1909, the following was appointed as a building committee, E.B. Crisp, J.H. Davis, Elisha Puett, Jones Franklin and J.C. Greene. This committee was given power to sell, contract, and act for the church in the building of a new church house. The sisters of the church were appointed to get subscription for the new church house (to go out and ask for money).

March 1909 the Rocky Springs Baptist Church met at Puett Hill School house. (It was approximately where our cemetery is today.)

In 1911 the church voted to pay the pastor \$100.00 a year. At the end of the year the offerings for the pastors salary came to \$88.21 which left the church owing him 11.79. The church then took up extra for back pay until their obligations were met.

On March 1912 the amount suggested for each member to pay on the indebtedness of the church was read and each one approved the amount.

In July 1912 Brother J.T. Hayes, Elisha Puett, and Claude Webb were appointed on a committee to collect funds; for the purpose of having the church painted.

In August it was agreed on that the Rev. H. Moore would preach the dedication sermon. In September, it was recorded that, we began our contributions to the orphanage at Thomasville, N.C.

August 1916 the only thing mentioned about the flood was, that the pastor asked them to lower his salary because of the misfortunes caused by the flood of that year.

We have some missing years due to the absence of some of our church records.

In 1940 about 30 members left our church to form a mission. It became Rufus Baptist Church in 1957. A flood on August 13, 1940 washed our church off its foundations. At that time some of the members left us to form Mulvale Baptist Church. By the hard work and dedication of the remaining members, the church was moved up next to the road. Again, Rocky Springs Baptist Church was carrying on the Lord's work.

On November 15, 1953 our church was destroyed by fire. Again, our faithfulness and dedication was put to the test. We met for church in the elementary school building.

Sharpe Franklin (Lorraine Key's brother) was hired to rebuild the church with the understanding, that he would accept free labor from our church members. The deacons at that time were: Hardy Coffey, Dallas Coffey, Glen Penley, Conn Annas, and Vernon Beane.

There is no way to remember all the names of the people, who gave of their time and talents to the rebuilding of our present church. We owe all of them a debt of gratitude, and God will surely bless them. On April 25, 1954 our present church was completed.

In 1963, we purchased our cemetery. In 1965 the church voted to begin full time service. Miss Dora Anderson donated the organ in memory of Lelia Spencer.

In March 1966, we voted to hire Rev. J.H. Crisp to build our parsonage, with the understanding to accept free labor from the church members. The WMS and ladies of the church were to be in charge of the furnishing of the parsonage.

In March 1973, the church voted to purchase the property adjoining the church parsonage for \$4,000.00.

Roger Franklin started an air condition fund which was completed in 1977.

In May 1991, our church purchased land across the highway from Len Rader for \$3,000.00.

As in the past, we see the importance of sustaining the work of preaching the gospel, and instructing the children of God. May Rocky Springs Baptist Church ever stand for the glory of God through flood, fire and blessings.

THE HISTORY OF RUFUS BAPTIST CHURCH

On June 16, 1940, Rocky Springs was seated in a business conference. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a mission church in the Mulberry Community area known as Rufus.

Recommendation was made and approved with 24 letters being voted into the newly organized church called Rufus Baptist Church.

Those chartered members were:

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Hart, Mr. and Mrs. P.H. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Laxton, Mrs. and Mrs. J.A. Bradshaw, Mr. and Mrs. W. Coy Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Buster Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Bean, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coffey, Mr. George Nichols, Mr. Connor Greene, Ms. Arlea Greene Hart, Mrs. Ellen Mast, Mr. Lex Mast, Mr. L.H. Moore, and Mrs. Stella Moore.

Mrs. Ruby Braswell was received by letter from Mortimore Baptist Church.

Rev. Herring Crisp was called by the new church as pastor/moderator.

W.B. Greene was elected as church clerk.

Within only a few months there were many more members brought into the fellowship of believers to make up a growing church.

The newly formed church met for worship service twice each month.

The first church building was a small log structure that had formerly been the Rufus School House. On March 16, 1941, Rufus became a member of the Caldwell Baptist Association, and of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a business meeting on June 9, 1956, Rufus Baptist Church voted to construct a new church building. The church voted to build a new building on the original site. That building is currently being used today.

The old "school house" building was donated to the community of Rufus by the church, to be used as a community building. It was moved to the Claude

Bradshaw property.

Pastors that have served Rufus Baptist Church are:

Rev. J. Herring Crisp,
(June 16, 1940-November 5, 1943)
Rev. Clell Cooke,
(November 6, 1943-September 1, 1946)
Rev. Bolick,
(September 1, 1946-August 26, 1951)
Rev. J. Herring Crisp,
(August 24, 1951-April 4, 1954)
Rev. Clell Cooke,
(April 4, 1954-August 24, 1958)
Rev. J. Herring Crisp,
(September 21, 1958-August 13, 1961)
Rev. Clell Cooke,
(August 27, 1961-September 1, 1963)
Rev. Walter Dula,
(September 1, 1963-August 23, 1964)
Rev. Ralph Staton,
(November 22, 1964-January 9, 1965)
Rev. Gene Clark,
(April 10, 1965-August 22, 1985)
Rev. Keith Cline,
(December 22, 1985-June 13, 1993)
Rev. Joe L. Helton,
(August 29, 1993 - present)

Rev. J. Herring Crisp served 3 terms for 9 years.
Rev. Clell Cooke served 3 terms for 9 years. Rev.
Gene Clark served 1 term for 19 years.

Rufus Baptist Church currently has Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. with the worship service following at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning.

THE HISTORY OF SETZER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Whereas it appears to us that there is a need for a Baptist Church in the locality, and after much prayer and much divine guidance, and much consultation with our neighboring brethren and churches and after the calling of a council to consider the matter which council has voted that there is a need for such a church.

It is now resolved that we do enter into the organization of a Church under the direction of a council composed of the following members representing the following churches.

On Saturday, September 11, 1948 at 3:00 p.m., a group of Baptist people gathered at a vacant storehouse belonging to the Rev. J. T. Laws for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church.

After devotion, a Presbytery was formed of the following ministers: Rev. L. B. Beane of the Maple Grove Baptist Church; Rev. H. R. Harris of the Temple Baptist Church; Rev. J. H. Crisp of the Central Baptist Church; Rev. R. C. Cook of the Glove Baptist Church; Rev. J. T. Laws holding "Letter"; Rev. J. H. Nelson holding "Letter"; and Deacon D. R. Collins of the Yadkin Baptist Church.

Rev. L. B. Beane was chosen Moderator, and Rev. J. H. Nelson was chosen Secretary of the Presbytery.

Letters from those wishing to join were read by the secretary, which were as follows: Rev. J. T. Laws, Rev. J. H. Nelson, Mrs. J.H. Nelson, Viola Andrews, S.W. Andrews, Betty Jean Andrews, Orville Greer, Mrs. Orville Greer, W.S. Miller, Daisy McLean, Dayton McLean, T.R. Gentry, Mrs. T.R. Gentry, Bruna Harold, Mrs. Bruna Harold, Sarah Dryson, Everette Coffey, Mrs. Everette Coffey, Mrs. Julia Penley, Glene Greer Turnmire, Mable Greer Freeman, Margaret Nelson, and Bobby Nelson. Rev. J.H. Crisp was chosen to read the Church Covenant. Said Covenant was read by same and adopted.

Rev. R. C. Cook was chosen to read the Articles of Baptist Faith. Said Articles were read by same and adopted.

The Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to the members of the newly organized church by the Presbytery.

Admonition to the Church was given by Rev. J. H. Crisp.

The name Setzer Creek Baptist Church was presented and adopted.

The Presbytery adjourned and the church held a brief conference. Rev. L. B. Beane served as Moderator, and Rev. J. H. Nelson, Secretary.

A Church was constructed on the property donated by T.R. Gentry at the cost of \$3,000.00. Seeing the need for more room, seven Sunday School rooms were built. In seeing there was a greater need for parking facilities and a larger church, land was purchased from Mr. F. H. McRary and the present church was built and moved into October, 1955.

A parsonage was built in 1961. The value of church property and parsonage is approximately \$750,000.00. Additional land in front of the parsonage was purchased in 1987.

Pastors of this church have served as follows:

Rev. John H. Nelson (1948 - 1949)
Rev. Will Cook (1949 - 1950)
Rev. Clell Cook (1950 - 1951)
Rev. A. C. Moody (1951 - 1955)
Rev. O. B. Hammond (1955)
Rev. Cecil Arney (1955 - 1959)
Rev. Romelus H. Setzer (1960 - 1965)
Rev. Walter Hare (1965 - 1967)
Rev. Thomas Taylor (1967 - 1970)
Rev. Robert James (1970 - 1972)
Rev. Raymond Turbyfill (1972 - 1974)
Rev. J. D. Grasty (1974 - 1976)
Rev. Morris Tuttle (1977 - 1980)
Rev. Robert Kirby (1981 - 1985)
Rev. Herbert McCoy (1986 - 1991)
Rev. Kenneth Mashburn (1991 - Present)

The following men have served as Deacons: S.W. Andrews, T.R. Gentry, Bruna Harold, Frank Bingham, Orville Greer, Wade Hayes, Paul Greene, Vilas Robbins, R. Don Watson, Robert

James, Horace Moretz, Francis Crisp, Jones Curtis, Paul Ruppard, Charles Watson, Filmore Faw, Vanus Dillard, Jim Allen, Tway Allen, Earnest Baird, L.M. Cheek, Claude Storie, Jerome Moretz, Ralph Bryant, Edgar Haas, Bob Tobert, and Jerry Connors.

The following men have been ordained to the ministry by the Setzer Creek Baptist Church: Rev. Gary James, Rev. Carl Osborne, and Rev. Brown Howell.

Accepted into the Caldwell Missionary Baptist Association at the Concord Baptist Church, Granite Falls, September 21, 1950. Rev. Clell Cook, Pastor. Sunday School enrollment in 1951 showed 128. Training Union reported 3 units with 42 enrolled in 1951. WMU reported 12 members in 1951.

Total expenditures for Missions in 1951 were \$124.00 and for purposes \$6,378.54.

G.A.'s and RA's were organized and reported in 1954.

Total receipts in 1970 were \$13,120.00. Total receipts in 1980 were \$43,339.00. Total receipts in 1990 were \$128,334.00.

The total missions giving was as follows: 1951 - \$124.00; 1960 - \$794.00; 1970 - \$561.00; 1980 - \$4,297.00; 1990 - \$22,283.00; 1994-1995 - \$22,990.00.

Membership in 1948 - 22; 1980 membership - 272; Present membership in 1994-1995 - 344; Sunday School enrollment 173; Discipleship Training - 57; WMU enrollment - 37; Brotherhood enrollment - 17.

1980 Educational Building was constructed at an approximate cost of \$135,000.00. In 1980, renovation of Sanctuary was constructed at an approximate cost of \$18,000.00. In 1990, renovation and Extension of Sanctuary and of other facilities were completed - approximate cost \$350,000.00.

A new Grand Piano was purchased by the church in May of 1987. In November of 1994, a new Allen Organ was also purchased. A church van was donated to the church in September, 1992.

A dedication and noteburning service was held on August 27, 1971. Rev. Robert James was serving as pastor. Another dedication service was held for the new educational building in December of 1980. Rev. J.E. Ledbetter was serving as interim pastor. The church also dedicated a new fellowship hall and remodeled sanctuary in 1991.

In March of 1995, the Setzer Creek Baptist Church adopted a constitution and by-laws. The church completed work on incorporation on August 27, 1995.

THE HISTORY OF SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the summer of 1956, Mt. Zion Church held a vacation Bible School in a small garage building on a hill near the present church building. Miss Faye Turnmire was in charge of this school. As a result of this school, Mt. Zion saw the need of a mission in this area.

In the Spring of 1957, a five room house across the road from the present church building was rented, and a mission started.

As the mission grew, they called Rev. Charlie Cooke as pastor. This was September, 1957. In the first year the attendance reached 72, and the need for a larger building was felt, hence our first building was built. In September, 1966, Preacher Cooke resigned because of ill health. In March of 1967, the church called Rev. Edd Warren, our present pastor. The Mission continued to grow, and in August 1967 it was organized into Sunrise Baptist Church.

As it continued to grow, and the people prayed, we built a larger building, our present auditorium. We paid this loan off in eight years. Again in 1983, the need was seen for a larger building. Through much prayer and working together it was decided to remodel the present building, and add an additional 35 x 36 foot. This loan was secured in March, 1984. This loan was paid off before the allotted time. The need for a fellowship hall was very great, and the work began in March of 1987, and the indebtedness was paid off 31 months later.

This last March we bought a new bus, which we are in the process of paying for. Also, we are in the process of building a garage to house the church's vehicles.

God has so richly blessed. It is our desire to keep trying to do the will of the Lord, and serve him each day.

As Preacher Charlie used to say, "Christ is the head of this Church."

H. P. Benfield donated land for the church.

THE HISTORY OF TEMPLE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1938, after weekly prayer meetings in community homes, a small group of people met in an old building, on the site of the present church. The need for a new building encouraged the people to give, and in 1941, a building was built to worship in. This building later became the home of Frank and Verna Hayes. In July 1946, a council was formed to organize Temple Hill Baptist Church. A one acre track of land was purchased from Mrs. Nora Keller, on which the church was built. In 1946, the church voted to join the North Carolina State Convention, and the Caldwell Baptist Association. Thirteen of the thirty-one charter members are still living.

Rev. L.R. Davis was the first pastor, and the deacon board consisted of three deacons. The pastors who have served Temple Hill are: Rev. L.R. Davis, Rev. Henry Colvard, Rev. Harley Coffey, Rev. W.E. Keller, Rev. Henry McDuffie, Rev. J.D. Grasty, Rev. Hugh Kincaid, and Rev. Charles Murrell.

In 1960, the church built a new parsonage, and called Brother Henry McDuffie as pastor. Rev. McDuffie pastored Temple Hill until his death in 1976. During his ministry, two more acres of land were purchased from Mrs. Nora Keller to be used for the cemetery. In 1962, an educational building was built which consisted of: thirteen Sunday School rooms, a choir loft, two restrooms, a baptistery, new pews, and the church was completely bricked. In 1963, more land was purchased to be used for a parking lot, and a recreation area beside the parsonage. Other highlights of the 1960's included: purchasing a new bus, and the church became debt free. In 1969, renovations were made to the parsonage, and the congregation was growing steadily, a Building Planning Committee was elected by the church to study the needs of the church. On September 1, 1969, the committee recommended to the church that a new sanctuary and educational building be built. In December 1971, the new building was dedicated to the Lord. The church has grown from thirteen members to over seven hundred in membership. Also, in 1969, the church voted to give ten percent of its budget to missions.

In 1980, the church called Brother Hugh Kincaid as pastor. During his ministry, the church built a new fellowship hall at a cost of \$92,000. This note was paid off in 1991.

In February 1993, the church called Brother Charles Murrell as our pastor. Rev. Murrell came to Temple Hill from the Pine Branch Baptist church in Spruce Pine, N. C. During Rev. Murrell's ministry, Brother Joe Helton has been ordained into the Gospel ministry, and God is blessing our church, in that many have been saved.

Temple Hill Baptist Church presently has a complete mission and educational program from infants through senior citizens, teaching, giving, and showing love in action.

The church presently contributes to the support of several home and foreign missionaries, as well as to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Caldwell Baptist Association.

THE HISTORY OF UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

Just prior to the American Revolution, settlers began to establish homes in the Union Community. This section was settled largely by English, Scotch and Irish emigrants or their descendants.

Union Baptist Church was organized June 2, 1814, in Burke County - now Caldwell - by a presbytery composed of John Carlton, Elder William Dotson, and Moses Stanbury.

The first Pastor was William Dotson. The first Church Clerk was James Critchlow. The first Deacons were Alexander West, Jr., William Sherrill, Thomas Litton and Alexander Est, Sr. The first member whose name was enrolled was Alexander West, Sr.

Since the church was organized in 1814, there have been 34 pastors, or which several have served more than once.

Union Church first joined the Brier Creek Association. In 1827, it joined the Catawba River Association. It then became a member of the Lewis Fork Association, joining that body in 1836. When the Brushy Mountain Association was formed, it belonged to that association. The Caldwell Association was formed in 1885. It immediately joined that association and has been a member ever since.

In 1826, there were seventeen members granted letters of dismission in order to assist in constituting a church at Antioch, now in Alexander County.

In 1861, seven members were granted letters of dismission to form a Baptist church at Dudley Shoals in Caldwell County.

In the days of slavery, black people were admitted as members of Union Church along with their masters and mistresses. Annie Mills was the first black to join. She was the servant of Rebecca Mills.

The early history of Union Church shows that it meant much to be a member as discipline was very strict. It seems that nearly all personal differences

were taken to the church for settlement. These differences were settled according to church discipline and their ideas of justice. This caused some confusion; nevertheless, the church grew and prospered, and in most cases the excluded members returned to the church, made confession of their wrongs, and were restored to membership.

The church, in her early days, observed days of "fasting and prayer" and "washed each others feet." These practices have been discontinued for the reason that the membership no longer considered them an ordinance.

On February 3, 1869, a resolution was passed, requiring each member to pay ten cents on each one hundred dollars worth of property owned by him; and each male member owning no land was required to pay 50 cents; and each female member to pay 25 cents per year for the support of the gospel.

Thomas Roberts, a man of considerable wealth in money, land and slaves gave the land upon which the church was built. The first house of worship was built of the very best forest pine logs, hewn with a broad axe, perfectly notched at the corners in a dove-tailed fashion, as could be done by our pioneer forefathers. The chinks were covered by long pine boards. The floor was made of long, split pine slabs, hewed, planed, tongued and grooved. The roof was fastened to the wall with wooden pegs. The seats had no backs and were made of wooden slabs and wooden legs. There was no arrangement for heating the building; so there was likely no service held in the very cold weather. Pine knots and tallow candles were used for lighting.

There is a tradition that the Methodist assisted in the erection of this first original building, and that they used it for worship until a later date. Hence it was called "Union." Later, however, the Methodist organized a church in a school house where Cedar Valley now stands. They built a church of their own at this place.

The first building stood and served Union Baptists for 61 years. Then it was decided that the congregation had outgrown the building. So in

1875, it was decided to build a larger one-room structure. The work progressed slowly, and the building was used for worship before it was completed. This church had two doors. The women and children entered and worshipped on the right, while the men entered and worshipped on the left. This is an old Jewish custom which originated thousands of years ago; but it is not now rigidly adhered to.

The second building served as a place of worship for the next 65 years.

In 1940 a movement was started to build the present grey-granite edifice. In keeping with this idea the present membership thought the old building had outlived its usefulness and appearance as a house of worship. They believed that a more progressive age demanded that the Union membership and congregation could best serve God in a more useful and beautiful structure. So the church appointed Ralph McRary, Will Reid, R. Maynard Teague, Burl McRary, and R. L. Downs as a building committee. It was decided to build the church of grey granite and a very suitable stone was found on the farm of Will Reid, who gladly donated this stone to the church.

Ralph McRary, Lee McGee, Art McRary and William Oxford donated logs to be sawed into lumber for the building. Will Reid moved his sawmill to the church lot and sawed the logs free. As many as twenty people were often at work at the same time, along with the Pastor W. W. Lyons.

In August 1941, it was decided to tear down the old building and hold service in Oak Hill School until the new church could be used. The old church bell was lowered by Allen Kirby, Sherman Tolbert and R. M. Teague. The old church was soon dismantled and the excavation for the new building completed. Coot Cobb was employed to supervise the stone work. C.A. Bolick was employed to supervise the carpenter work. Most of the labor was donated by the people of the community. Members of other churches also helped. A fine spirit of cooperation existed and the work progressed rapidly through the fall and winter months.

The auditorium was completed and the first service was held in it on Easter Sunday 1942.

The church received very liberal financial support and was able to pay off all indebtedness and

dedicate the building to the Lord in 1944.

Rev. Grant Miller, Jr., held the dedicatory service, and C. A. Bolick burned the mortgage.

In September 1953, Mrs. Lee Smith donated a tract of land for a parsonage. Three weeks later on October 4, 1953, a dedication service and ground-breaking ceremony occurred. The modern three-bedroom brick structure, located approximately one-half mile from the church building, was completed in February 1954. Rev. Don Peek, Union's first full-time pastor, and his family were the first residents of the new parsonage. In addition to regular maintenance, improvements to the parsonage property include the following: the addition of a second bathroom a new heat system, and storm doors and windows in 1966; paving of the driveway in 1967; refinishing floors in 1968; new roof, heating system, cabinets, flooring, and appliances in 1986; the conversion of the garage into an office and the building of a detached large garage in 1991.

In May 1956, a nine-member planning committee was established to work out plans for an educational building. Ground-breaking service was held on June 29, 1958, and the building was completed in January 1959. Furnishings for the new building, attached to the back of the existing church building, included kitchen equipment, tables, chairs, piano and vacuum cleaner. At this time Roy Brown gave the church the right-of-way for the driveway on the east side of the church building. In appreciation, the church voted to set aside three burial plots in the cemetery for the Brown family at no charge.

About this same time rules and regulations regarding the cemetery were drawn up and were approved by the church (May 27, 1956). The cemetery was expanded by the 3 1/2 - 4 acres donated by the Fin Simms family. By vote of the church on April 16, 1961, \$300 was donated to Dudley Shoals Baptist Church and six cemetery plots were set aside for the Simms family. Later that year the church voted to plot the cemetery. A detailed mapping of the cemetery in November 1983 showed approximately 600 sites available. The cemetery committee presented a revision of the policies in 1995.

In December 1954 church properties increased by the Jones McLeod family donation of a tract of land to be used as a recreation park. This park

was developed by clearing of land, adding lights, and building a shelter and clubhouse. The park was for several years by various church groups.

Many additions and renovations to the church building have occurred during the past fifty years. Some of these include the following: a front porch in 1946; new pews in 1948; carpet in 1950; restrooms in 1952; additional classroom and tile on classroom floor in 1964; enlarging sanctuary and adding baptistry and memorial windows in 1967; heating/air conditioning system in 1972; sound system in 1978; new carpet, padded pews, and matching choir robes in 1984; additional restroom facilities, 1989; landscaping and addition of night lights and spotlight, 1994. Total church property which was insured for \$75,000 in 1965 is insured for \$800,000 thirty years later in 1995.

Church minutes from Union Baptist Church's earliest days attest to an organized manner of conducting church business affairs. Formal adoption of a constitution and by-laws occurred on September 8, 1970. In 1990 a committee was appointed to update the constitution and by-laws. While a great deal of time and effort has been devoted to this cause, the revision has not yet been adopted. The minutes show the suggestion of a church council in March 1968, and a recommendation for a church council in 1973. It appears that a church council has been in place since that time. One change that began in June 1959 is the rotation system for deacons still in effect.

Union has been a missions-minded church and had a WMU as early as 1940. Church minutes of July 7, 1918, show that a Mrs. Boldin or Mrs. Boldick (name unclear) encouraged the organization of a Woman's Missionary Society at Union. Early records document that missions offerings were taken as early as 1918. In 1918 and in 1919 an offering was taken for "Belgian relief." In the 1920's many offerings were taken for an orphanage. More recently emphasis has been given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. In 1994, the receipts for Lottie Moon amounted to \$4,360. Thirteen percent (13%) of undesignated offerings go to Cooperative Program, 4% to associational missions, and 1% to state missions. Some mission projects supported during the decade, 1985-1995, include the following: Southern Union Baptist Church in West Virginia; Sao Paulo, Brazil project; Bethel Colony; Noel Children's Home; and

Russian missionaries. In addition, local benevolence occurred consistently as need was made known. At present total WMU enrollment is 49 and Brotherhood enrollment is 29.

Several pastors who served Union Baptist Church served more than one time. The following men have served through the years: William Dodson, Sr., John Carlton, Benjamin Beach, William Swanson, William Holder, Cornelius Livingston, Smith Ferguson, William Gogorth, J.J. Watts, James Reed, Houston Holsclaw, J.H. West, J.B. Powell, Isaac Oxford, Jacob Crouch, William Pool, J.T. Shell, J.B. Pool, W.A. Pool, J.M. Shaver, J.W. Watts, Levi Teague, W.R. Beach, T.E. Payne, W.W. Lyons, Granite R. Miller, Jr., W. Otto Johnson, Don Peek, Elmer Carter, Sam Stevenson, Dale Throneburg, L.J. Culler, Charles Ginn, Mark Gold, Wesley Price, James Outlaw, and Richard Martin.

While thirty-seven different pastors have served Union Baptist Church through the years, the number of church clerks appears to be far fewer. Eighteen clerks have kept records throughout the church's existence. Almost complete minutes are available except for 1941-42, at which time the school building was used for meetings, and for the period 1968-1990 for which a former clerk/member has not to this date released the church's records from his possession.

It is unclear at what point the choir director position became a paid position. Minutes of April 16, 1963 show that Curtis Moore was hired as "choirister." However, a budget report from January 1963 shows an amount allocated. Persons serving following Curtis Moore include: Michael West, Kyle Roberts, John Hawkins, Bill Shaver, Ellen Self, Dottie Miller, Doug Thompson, Stuart Braswell, and Rodney Smith (present music director since 1983). Others led music when a paid person was unavailable. Pat Reid Hollar has served the church as pianist most of the time since 1979. Sandra Reid-Coffey has been organist since 1988.

Union Baptist church sought to hire a part-time youth director in August 1992. Will Derrick, Union's first paid youth director, served for three years. At present, there is no paid youth director.

Union Baptist Church has been involved in associational meetings and has hosted the Caldwell Baptist Association six times: 1886, 1900, 1914,

1952, 1969, and 1995.

Union has a present enrollment of 295, 236 of whom are resident members. Weekly Sunday morning and evening services are held, including Sunday School and Discipleship Training. Mission organizations and mid-week services meet on Wednesday evenings.

THE HISTORY OF UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Union Grove Baptist Church was constituted into and declared to be a regular baptist church on the Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in September 1899. Charter members were: W. J. Bean, Mary Bean, C. L. Smith, Jemima Smith, A. S. Smith, Grace Smith, W. N. Underdown, Salvadore Underdown, Corda Underdown, Elvira Gilbert, Susan Bean, Arthur Kelly, Sidda Smith, H. E. Bean, S. L. Bean, G. W. Smith, and Ruhama Smith. G. W. Smith was appointed the Church Clerk. D. L. Miller was elected pastor. During the September 21-24, 1899 Caldwell Missionary Baptist Association held at Blairs Fork Baptist Church, Union Grove was presented and received by the association.

When the church was first organized, it was a "brush arbor." Then a one room white frame building was erected on land donated by Joe Smith. Curtains were used to separate the Sunday School classes.

On June 27, 1937 the church voted to build a new church. O. L. Gibson, J. M. Craig, Edgar Bean, Cecil Herman, A. C. Smith, George Crump, and Will Bolick were appointed to the building committee. Some years later an educational building was added. The present church building was completed in 1964.

The first Baptismal service held inside was in 1947. All previous baptismal services were held in the creek, located on the property of Harvey Bolick.

The first W. M. U. was organized in 1949, and the Brotherhood was organized in 1953.

The first pastorium was built in 1950, and is now the home of the Minister of Music & Youth. The present pastorium was built in 1972.

In 1985 the old educational building was renovated to include a media center, music department, offices for the Minister of Music and Youth, Pastor, and Church Secretary. The renovation included classrooms for the children's department, and improvements in the existing educational building.

The following ministers have served Union Grove as pastors: D. L. Miller, J. R. J. Annas, W. N. Cook, L. C. King, E. D. Crisp, T. P. Shoemake, J. M. Elrod, R. A. Branch, E. M. Bradshaw, W. B. Bryant, R. L. Haas, Boyd Cannon, Charlie Cook, Ed. P. Bennett, L. E. Snipes, Homer Messer, Paul Wilson, Herring Crisp, L. J. Culler, James Lambert, W. R. Kimberlin, Rufus Edmisten, and Guy Helms.

**THE HISTORY
OF
WEST LENOIR BAPTIST CHURCH**

In 1942, thirty charter members met and organized West Lenoir Baptist Church. Rev. Hort Knight was elected as the first pastor. A plot of land on North Fairview Drive was purchased, and a small building was erected, thus was the beginning or worship services of West Lenoir Baptist Church.

Later, C. M. Curtis became pastor, then Rev. Ira Walker. Under pastor Walker's leadership, a new church building was constructed in 1949. Following Rev. Walker's resignation, Rev. C. R. McFelea became pastor in 1951. During the following years, the church membership grew to 206, and in 1957, Rev. Paul Wilson was elected pastor following Rev. McFelea's resignation. Rev. Wilson resigned in 1959, and Rev. LeRoy Thomas, a retired minister, accepted the position as supply pastor until Rev. Jason Stilwell was called to be pastor in January 1960. He served as pastor until August 1970.

On October 1, 1970, Rev. James Lockee became the pastor of West Lenoir Baptist Church. During the year 1971, approximately fourteen acres of land were purchased on the Abington Road for a new church building and other facilities, and during this year a parsonage was built on this property. On October 29, 1971, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the construction of the new church building. On the 23rd day of December, 1979, six years to the date of our first meeting in the new building, the entire indebtedness of all of the church property was retired. By this time the church membership had grown to 645.

In 1978, the fellowship hall was completed, located just behind the church building. In 1981, a two-story dormitory was constructed beside the fellowship hall. The fall of 1983, saw the inception of the West Lenoir Baptist Bible Institute, for the training of men to the ministry and greater knowledge of the Scriptures. The first class graduated in February 1986. The prayer chapel was constructed in 1985 between the church building and the parsonage and was named Gethsemane. In 1986, a house was built on the hill just up from the fellowship hall for the Minister of Music, and the fellowship hall structure was extended with the addition of classrooms for the Bible Institute, and room for other activities. In June of 1986, the last living charter member, Mrs. Omie Storie, went home to be with the Lord.

West Lenoir Baptist Church presently has a membership of 827 and continues to proclaim to the community the Good News of Jesus Christ. "This is the Lord's doing, It is marvelous in our eyes."

THE HISTORY OF WHITNEL FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church of Whitnel was organized on April 24, 1910. Reverend I. W. Thomas and Reverend J. S. Gwaltney officiated at the organizational meeting, and Brother Thomas was elected the first Pastor.

The Charter Members are as follows: Clay Harrison, Susan Harrison, Sarah Deal, Kate Deal, Ella Jamison, John F. Barnett, Rossamah E. Smith, Robert M. Smith, J. K. Barber, Spurgeon Barber, Martha Barber, Bessie Barber, J. H. Johnson, Z. H. Johnson, Ida Lutz, Pearl Triplett, Grace Triplett and D. H. Griffin.

The first Pastor was Reverend I. W. Thomas; the first Clerk, Robert M. Smith; the first Treasurer, Robert M. Smith; and the first Deacons were J. H. Johnson, J. R. Barber, and Spurgeon Barber.

During the business meeting on July 24, 1910, "On a motion the members present unanimously joined themselves to the Caldwell County Baptist Association." "On a motion the chair appointed the following brethren as delegates: J. H. Johnson, P. S. Barber and R. M. Smith." (from original minutes on page 34).

The first building was a one-room frame building to which Sunday School rooms were later added. The building was located on the same property and location as the old church building across from American Efrids Mills. Prior to that time a community Sunday School and Union services were held in the old school building just across the street, the present site of American Efrids Mills (Nelson Plant).

In 1925, under the leadership of Reverend T. E. Payne, a new building was erected. While the old frame building was being destroyed and the new building was being built, services were held in the Whitnel School, which is now occupied by the Caldwell County Board of Education. When the new building was completed and ready for use, the congregation assembled in front of the school and marched from the school to the new church. This march was led by Reverend T. E. Payne, and while marching to the new building all the congregation sang, "We're Marching To Zion." Members of our church still living, who took part in this march are:

Mr. Brady Reary, Mrs. Bessie Griffin, Mrs. Annie Jolly and Mrs. Dora Johnson.

Mrs. Brady (Jettie) Reary has been a member of our church longer than any member that is still living. She has been a member at all three of the church buildings. She was also the organist in the first two church buildings, and played the same organ, which we have restored and is still in good condition. She also was a pianist at our present location. Mrs. Reary and Mrs. Craig began attending during the pastorate of Reverend I. W. Thomas.

In 1948, under the leadership of Reverend M. W. Stallings, the church erected the first parsonage (222 Whitnel Place).

Reverend Jyles Hall served the church as Pastor from April 14, 1957 to May 1, 1965. Under Brother Hall's leadership, our present building at 501 Connelly Springs Road was erected. Construction was begun in September 1958. On March 1, 1959, the First Baptist Church of Whitnel moved into the present (educational) building. The first use of the new sanctuary was on January 13, 1963.

On September 26, 1965, the church called Reverend Stuart Johnson to be the Pastor. During Reverend Johnson's pastorate additional property was purchased, the Church Library started, and a ball park and recreational area was built. Also, a new parsonage was bought which was located at 531 Connelly Springs Road, and a full time Minister of Music and Education was called.

During the pastorate of Reverend Haven Lowe (June 30, 1970 to August 10, 1975), the church purchased additional property (terminal building) beside the church and a bus ministry began.

Our present Pastor, Reverend Stuart White, came to the pastorate on January 2, 1983. In June 1983, the church voted to build a new parsonage. The new parsonage is located at 503 Connelly Springs Road and was dedicated on January 29, 1984. Reverend White resigned on January 27, 1991, effective February 24, 1991.

THE HISTORY OF YADKIN BAPTIST CHURCH

The oldest church in Caldwell County stands in the Patterson community. Yadkin Baptist Church was first known as the Church of Christ at the Head of the Yadkin, and the earliest confirmed date of its existence is 1765.

In its earliest years, the church met on the fourth Saturday of each month, and acted as a governing body for social issues and disputes among members. The earliest known house of worship was a large log house standing on the banks of the Yadkin approximately one mile south of the present location. Four marked graves are all that now exist of that first location, as the building was badly damaged in the flood of 1916.

After the flood, a house of worship was purchased from the Presbyterians on the present site. This building was enlarged and used until 1951 when the educational building was built. Services were held in the adult assembly until the sanctuary was built at an approximate cost of \$100,000. The first service was held there January 15, 1956. The children's educational annex was added and dedicated May 15, 1966. The first parsonage at Yadkin Baptist Church was built beside the church in 1948, and the present parsonage was built across the road in 1960.

Yadkin has been active in associations for most of its existence. It was a member of the Strawberry Association of Virginia. It became a member of this association because of the parish tax levied by England. In 1790, a group of North Carolina churches, including Yadkin, petitioned the Strawberry Association to be released so they could form an association closer home. This became the Yadkin Association. Yadkin Baptist was a branch of this association until 1797 when it was dismissed to join the Mountain Association. Some men who represented Yadkin at Mountain Association meetings included James Coffey, Eli Coffey, Jonathan Boone, and Thomas Coffey. In 1872, Yadkin joined with other churches to form the Catawba River Association. Finally, the Caldwell Association was begun in 1885, and Yadkin was one of the original members.

Besides being involved in associations, the church was also active in mission work. Several churches

in Caldwell County were begun as branches of Yadkin, and some of these are still in existence today. Among these churches are Mulberry Baptist, Globe Baptist, and Lower Creek Baptist.

Yadkin Baptist Church formulated a preamble, or constitution, in December 1815, and this constitution was adopted in May 1816.

Outstanding men who served as clerk of the church in the very early years of its existence included: Jonathan and Jesse Boone (nephews of Daniel Boone), Samuel Curtis, Thomas Coffey, Martin Durham, Nathaniel Vannoy, and the first known clerk, James Coffey.

Many outstanding men of God have served as pastor of Yadkin Baptist Church. In 1886 H. D. Lequex of Ellendale rode a circuit in the area, coming to Yadkin on the third week of every month. At that time the church had thirty two members. I. W. Thomas, a Baptist minister who was very interested in missions, became pastor in 1890. Mr. Thomas lived in Boone, and is probably better known among the churches further west in North Carolina.

The year 1893 saw Yadkin ministered to by H. M. Croom from the Globe, followed in 1894 by C.C. Poole from Partee, North Carolina. In 1898, the minister was J.H. Nelson who lived in Patterson. At that time, church membership was up to sixty. However, between 1900 and 1906, when I.W. Thomas returned as minister, membership fell to twenty-six. J. H. Nelson returned for one year in 1907. In 1908, E. D. Crisp served as minister. He was the father of Rev. J.H. Crisp, who is well-known throughout Caldwell County.

In 1911, J. B. Reid of Route 2, Lenoir became the minister, and is the only known minister who died while serving at Yadkin Baptist. After his death, P.H. Eisenhower of Sawmills became minister. 1914-1915 saw John C. Carlton come from Boone to minister to the people. The year of the flood, 1916, I. M. Hawkins of the Yadkin Valley served the sixty-three members. J. H. Watts was the minister beginning in 1917. He moved to Patterson from Taylorsville. During his service church membership grew to eighty-eight. In 1920,

I.C. Miller from Stony Fork served as minister. Many of Rev. Miller's descendants are very active in the church at the present time.

The year 1921 saw the church membership pass one hundred under the leadership of P.S. Barbour of Whitnel. T.E. Paine from Taylorsville became minister in 1923, and during that year twenty-nine members were excluded from the church. W.E. Wilson from Lenoir served as supply pastor in 1926.

Between 1927, when the church began having bi-monthly meetings, and 1945, ministers included: J.H. Watts, J.L. Greene from Deep Gap, D.B. Cannon from Granite Falls, T.E. Paine, and R.C. Cook.

In 1946, the church began meeting weekly. The minister was Eugene McMillan. He left in 1947 to go as a Missionary to the British West Indies. B.F. Peeler became minister in 1947 when the first parsonage was built.

Serving the church for the longest period of time was Robert A. Frye from North Catawba. He served Yadkin from 1949 until 1958. During his pastorate, a new educational building was completed in 1951, and in 1956 the auditorium was completed. He left in 1959 to continue his education. In 1959, Romulus Setzer served as a fill-in pastor. The W.R. Kimberlin served approximately eight years followed by J.E. Ledbetter and Henry C. Cook, Jr. Cook served as pastor from November 1971 - January 1979. Rev. Knolan Benfield served as interim from March 1979 - May 1979. Jerry Y. Allen served as pastor from June 1979 - April 1986. The present pastor, Robert Livingston has served the church since October 1986. During his pastorate the educational buildings and the offices have been completely renovated. This was funded through the Challenge To Build program, and the sale of church bonds.

Since 1987 several members of Yadkin have been able to fulfill a dream of participating in mission projects in other countries. Rev. Sherrill German ministered in Togo, West Africa; Mrs. Lydia Bryant served in Argentina. Several participated in the Sao Paulo Brazil partnership. Those included: Rev. Robert Livingston, Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Claude Griffin, Jr., Mr. Wayne Braswell, and Mr. Dean Ford. Mrs. Wayburn Braswell served in the Philippians. We anticipate this mission vision and participation will continue as we enter a new partnership with Southern Africa in 1996.

In addition to Rev. Livingston, the present staff of the church include: Rev. Sherrill German, Minister of Music and Education, Nancy Isaacs, Secretary, and Dennis Miller, Maintenance. Church membership is 514, and the church warmly welcomes visitors and prospective members.

THE HISTORY OF YADKIN VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Yadkin Valley Baptist Church came into existence in October 1935. According to the retained records, Rev. Grady Hamby, Rev. R. A. Branch, Rev. W. L. Fox, and Rev. J. L. Green met on October 19, 1935 to organize, and name the new church Yadkin Valley Baptist Church.

Recorded in the second meeting notes are R.A. Branch appointed moderator. Rev. Grady Hamby, temporary church clerk. Minnie Vannoy, Paul Steele and Mildred Steele were chosen to see if the new church would conflict with any other church. Rev. Levi Green, Pastor of Piney Grove Church reported of no conflict with Piney Grove.

During the third official meeting, a church covenant was read and approved. Members received at this meeting were: Dock Burress, Mattie Burress, Pink Burress, Jim Crayne, Isebell Crayne, Otis Crayne, Roby Crayne, Hazel Crayne, C.S. Ford, Retha Ford, Connie Ford, Mack Hamby, Rev. Grady Hamby, Marthellin Hamby, Earl James, Mamie James, Buron Kirby, Hazel Kirby, Roy Kirby, George Sutton, Julia Sutton, Paul Steele, Ruby Steele, Lee Steele, Mildred Steele, J. Le Vannoy, Minnie Vannoy, Mabelle Vannoy, Myrtle Vannoy, and Louise Watson. Mr. Pink Burress is still an active member of Yadkin Valley Baptist church and still serves on the deacon board.

During the October 20, 1935 meeting, Dock Burress, George Sutton, Roy Kirby, and J. Le Vannoy were appointed as deacons. Minnie Vannoy was appointed church clerk and Mildred Steele, church treasurer. These are the first recorded officers.

On November 10, 1935, a building committee of Paul Steele, Elbert Watson, C. S. Ford, Mildred Steele, Mattie Burress, and Minnie Vannoy were appointed. Also Rev. Grady Hamby was elected as pastor.

According to the March 8, 1936 report, the church treasury contained \$103.30. With these funds, the church voted to build a 24 x 36 church building. On April 12, 1936, each church member pledged \$1.00 for building supplies.

In September 1941, the church voted to remodel

the church and to add Sunday School class rooms.

As recorded in the March 16, 1946 church meeting, Brother Wade Younce was the first person called into the ministry from the Yadkin Valley Church congregation.

The first recorded delegates to the association were chosen August 14, 1948. These persons were Zack Clark, P. C. Barrett, and George Sutton.

On March 18, 1950, Yadkin Valley Baptist Church voted to give a donation of \$10.00 to Cedar Rock Baptist Church, on their remodeling project. Yadkin Valley Baptist church from the very beginning has been a warm hearted congregation, trying to aid other churches and by giving to associational missions.

July 28, 1976, the church voted to build a 20 x 40 picnic shed, and a bridge on the opposite side of the church. During the summer of 1982, the picnic shed was closed in to make a fellowship hall. In 1986, an addition to the fellowship hall was made, and the building was named Clark Hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Zack Clark, who were instrumental in the foundation of Yadkin Valley Baptist Church.

During 1984, an organ was purchased for the church. In November 1985, a wheel chair ramp and handicapped features were added.

In May 1987, Yadkin Valley voted to add a 16 x 22 addition to the church. This added four new class rooms, enlarged the auditorium and added a P. A. system. Over \$40,000 was spent on remodeling. The church borrowed money for 10 years, but the note was paid off in April 1994.

As to date the church is debt free. At present the church has voted to send Rev. Bobby Pritchard to India in the early part of 1995 on a mission trip. This will be the first mission sponsored for a member of the church. Currently, Yadkin Valley averages 45 for Sunday School and 88 for preaching. Leonard Younce has announced his call to preach. Yadkin Valley has not grown in leaps and bounds, but it maintains a faithful and supportive congregation.

Listed below are the pastors that have served Yadkin Valley Baptist Church, the deacons and trustees:

Rev. Grady Hamby (1935 - 1937)
Rev. Frank Knight (1937 - 1940)
Rev. Will Cook (1940 - 1941)
Rev. J. P. Davis (1941 - 1942)
Rev. Roy Ray (1942 - 1943)
Rev. Jay Younce (1944 - 1945)
Rev. O. C. Dellinger (1945 - 1950)
Rev. J. W. Ramsey (1950 - 1953)
Rev. Homer Messer (1953 - 1954)
Rev. Will Bolick (1954 - 1958)
Rev. H. H. McManis (1958 - 1962)
Rev. Gary James (1963 - 1966)
Rev. Howard Hawkins (1967)
Rev. Jerry McFelea (1970 - 1971)
Rev. Allan Hall (1972 - 1973)
Rev. Morris Tuttle (1973 - 1975)
Rev. Bill Hamby (1975)
Rev. Doyle Watson
Rev. Gary Teague
Rev. Bobby Pritchard (1982 - Present)

DEACONS:

Dock Burress (1935); Roy Kirby (1935); J. Le Vannoy (1935); George Sutton (1935); Fritz Laws (1938); Elbert Watson (1941); Ira Story (1941); C. S. Ford (1941); R. Don Watson (1941); Pink Burress (1950); Zack Clark (1950); Durham Bowman (1950); Glenn Collis (1959); Gary Chester (1963); Dennis Watson (1978); Dave Johnston; Arvil Greene (1985); J. Eddie Cheek (1994). Deacons currently serving are Arvil Greene, Chairman, Dave Johnston, Pink Burress, Glenn Collis, Dennis Watson, and Eddie Cheek.

TRUSTEES:

Ford Baker (1951); Don R. Watson (1951); Arnie Woods (1951); Pink Burress (1966); Glenn Collis (1966); Dale Clarke (1978); Sam Murphy (1978); Dave Johnston (1978).

If any name or date is incorrectly printed, we apologize. Many of these records were very old and not too legible. Report submitted by Linda Pritchard, Church Clerk, August 1994.

In 1988 Ole Timers Day was founded. On the Second Sunday in December, former members and current members celebrate the date the first church service of Yadkin Valley Baptist Church was held. Attenders wear overalls, bonnets, or whatever they see fit. You may see people arrive by horseback or horse-drawn carriages. Any member, past or the public is invited to attend for a Yadkin Valley Remembrance.

THE HISTORY OF ZACK'S FORK BAPTIST CHURCH

In the summer of 1948, Sunday School and preaching services began in the Cottrell Hill Schoolhouse under the direction of C. J. Mull and Lewis Swanson, both were from the Hartland community. They were also accompanied by Claude Ballew of the Cottrell Hill community.

On July 18, 1948, a group of members from Calvary Baptist Church and elsewhere, organized a church body as an "Arm" or Mission of Calvary Baptist Church with C.J. Mull as leader.

This plan or agreement did not work out, so on November 20, 1948, an independent body was set up by a presbytery composed of the following: Rev. W. B. Cook, Rev. William Reece, Rev. Eugene Secrest, Rev. George A. Mull, Rev. R. H. Raby, and Deacon W. J. Mull, all of Burke County. This presbytery also ordained C. J. Mull as a minister, and three Cottrell Hill residents as Deacons as follows: L. W. Philyaw, W. W. Laws, and U. G. Sams. This church body was composed of a few members each of Calvary and Blair's Fork Baptist Churches and baptized believers, sixteen in number.

Work was started immediately on a church building, the plot of land being donated by L. W. Philyaw, located on a part of the Bowman estate, and adjoining the Zack's Fork Highway and Everette Day Lines. U. G. Sams gave a mortgage on his property (known as the old G. D. Sherrill place) for security.

By June 1949, services were being held in a portion of the new church building, or basement until the auditorium could be built. The church building was completed in due time by private subscription, and free labor and the membership grew to the number of 75, and was known as the Cottrell Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Miss Mattie Ruth Philyaw was appointed Clerk, and L. W. Philyaw as Treasurer with Benton Blevins and Thomas Perry named as Trustees. On May 7, 1950, three additional members were ordained as Deacons by a presbytery composed of: Rev. Sam Silvers, Rev. C. J. Mull, Deacons W. J. Mull, U. G. Sams, and L. W. Philyaw. Those ordained were: Stewart Barlow, Hilton Bauguss, and Jimmy Curtis.

About this time a growing discord in the church

was in evidence, due to the different denominational membership and from unorthodox practices. Doubt sprang up in the minds of some of the members, as to the validity of the original organization of the church body. One circumstance of discord added to another, in the course of time, caused the meeting of all the Deacons on July 8, 1950 at the home of Will Curtis, where a letter was drawn up asking the resignation of the pastor, to be presented to him at the following regular service. This letter was presented to Pastor C.J. Mull on Sunday July 9, 1950, but was never read nor put before the church. Pastor Mull resigned his duties as pastor on the same date.

The church body then as "Sheep without a Shepherd" dwindled and almost disbanded. Finally, on October 23, 1950, a few of the most interested members, and a majority of Deacons of the Cottrell Hill Church met at the home of R.L. Barlow for the purpose of starting a movement for; re-establishing a church. Rev. Edd Crump, pastor, and the deacons of Calvary Baptist Church, were invited to attend this meeting. It was agreed in general that a church body organized from the beginning was needed, and as an "Arm" or mission of Calvary Baptist Church.

On October 26, 1950, the pastor and deacons of Calvary Baptist Church and the former deacons of Cottrell Hill Church met at the Cottrell Hill Church; for the purpose of drawing up recommendations for the organization of a new church body.

On October 28, 1950 a meeting was held at Cottrell Hill Church, and a new church body was organized as a Arm or Mission of Calvary Baptist Church. The vote was 27 in favor. It was also recommended and approved that the name be changed to Zack's Fork Baptist Church, with Johnny Whisnant as Treasurer, and Mrs. C. A. Stokes as Church Clerk.

On October 29, 1950 thirteen former members of Cottrell Hill joined Calvary Baptist Church, in order to be able to get church letters to become Charter Members of the new church organization. This number grew to twenty-eight as a Mission of Calvary Church.

On November 26, 1950 Rev. W H. Edmisten came to the Zack's Fork Baptist Church as full time pastor, receiving his salary for awhile from Calvary Baptist. Rev. Edmisten was re-elected or called again as Pastor of the new church on June 9, 1951, which was recognized as a newly organized Baptist Mission by the Caldwell Association, and was taken under the watch-care of same on September 20, 1951.

On February 6, 1952 three new Trustees were appointed by church vote: Will Curtis, R. L. Barlow, and U. G. Sams.

At the 68th Annual Baptist Association which met at the Union Baptist Church on September 18, 1952, the Zack's Fork Baptist Church was accepted in full membership with the Caldwell Baptist Association.

Rev. Edmisten served in the capacity as full time pastor until his resignation on April 5, 1953. Others who have served the church as pastors are: Rev. Francis Prestwood (May 3, 1953 - Nov. 15, 1953), Rev. Sam Silvers (Nov. 22, 1953 - July 29, 1956); Rev. Paul Wilson (July 29, 1956 - March 16, 1958), Rev. Paul Braswell was a supply pastor for two months then called as pastor (May 7, 1958 - April 6, 1960). On July 20, 1960 Rev. C. A. Mayberry was called as a supply pastor through Nov. 27, 1960, at which time Rev. Paul Wilson was called for a second term. In July of 1971, Rev. Paul Wilson left Zack's Fork Baptist Church. A pulpit committee was formed as follows: Theadore Helton, Bertha St. John, Jack Walsh, Viola Walsh, and Viola Whisnant. The church unanimously voted on Nov. 7, 1971 to call Rev. Wayne Borders as Pastor. He came the next Sunday, November 14, 1971 with twenty-nine present. Pastor Borders was ordained December 5, 1971 from Central Baptist Church of Whitnel. The ordaining council was: Earl Winbarger, Jack D. Church, James E. Cooke, Bennett Helton, J. H. Crisp, C. H. Kincaid, and C. J. Baker, Sr.

In July 1972, a new brick structure for a church building was started, with three acres of land given to the church by Joe Walsh. The land was located a little north of the old church building, on property adjoining the old Cottrell Family Cemetery. About a year later, on June 3, 1973, a Dedication Service was held in the new ZACK'S

FORK BAPTIST CHURCH building. On June 14, 1981 a special service was held to burn the note for the church building.

A church parsonage was built and completed on December 15, 1977. This note was burned in August of 1990, also to the church grounds was added a fellowship hall, built September 7, 1982 with the note burned in 1985. A new church parking lot has also been added with completion on September 4, 1992.

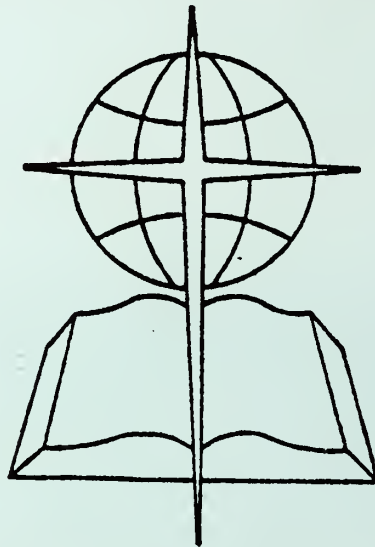
The greatest addition to our church has been the souls he has added since it was first established. On November 14, 1995, our Pastor marked his twenty-fourth year with us. GOD has truly blessed this community with our beautiful country church on the hill !!!

Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1555
Lenoir, North Carolina 28645

R. Dale Fisher, Director

Ann L. Hatton, Administrative Assistant

Judy F. Brittain, Financial Secretary



Caldwell Baptist Center
208 Nuway Circle
Lenoir, North Carolina 28645

BUILDING HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

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